A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY
February 18, 2010
Volume L Number 17

# THE SPECTATOR

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PHOTO BY NICOLAS KELLER SARMIENTO'13

**As part of FebFest, students listen to the Vagina Monologues in the Events Barn on Wednesday, Feb. 17. For more in-depth coverage on FebFest events, see pages 9-12.**

## Asbestos Forces Out 11 Bundy Residents

**by Thomas Yarnell '10**
*News Editor*

Eleven students are being forced to move out of their current rooms in Bundy Residence Halls due to concerns about asbestos contamination in the ceiling. On Monday, Feb. 15, the 11 residents in Bundy East and West Residence Halls received an e-mail from Director of Residential Life Travis Hill informing them that they must move out of their current rooms as soon as possible and stay in new rooms for the remainder of the semester.

According to Steve Bellona, associate vice president for facilities and planning, the students must move because their rooms in particular need to be stabilized due to cracked and delaminating ceilings and there will not be enough time over spring break to adequately complete the stabilization process.

"Due to the nature of the work in the room, we would need to pack up and remove all the personal items and furniture in the room to complete the stabilization effort in each of these rooms," said Bellona. "In reviewing this work effort along with the other stabilization effort in the West Bundy second floor south hallway, we determined that we did not have enough time over the spring break to accomplish both the hallway work and the room stabilization prior to the end of spring break."

Colin Chapin '12 did not appreciate how he was informed about the need to move.

"The e-mail seemed pretty impersonal to me," he said. "I understand the move is necessary, but receiving a short e-mail right after a long day of classes telling you to pack everything up and find a new place to live isn't the best way to go about this."

Leah Koren '12 expressed a different kind of frustration that seemed common among the students who have to move.

"It is a huge inconvenience to have to move all of my stuff from my room because I have academics and extra curriculars that I need to focus on," she said.

Koren, however, considers herself lucky. She managed to get a different single in Bundy East "a couple hallways down" from her current room.

Hill's e-mail notified the students that new rooms would be selected on a first come, first served basis.

In a subsequent interview, Hill said that the students selected their new rooms "based on whatever vacancies [Residential Life] had available" and that these rooms are "all over campus."

The students will receive $100 on their Hill Cards for the inconvenience and can enlist Physical Plant to help them with the move.

Chapin said that in his meeting with Residential Life

*see **Asbestos,** page 3*

## Student Organizations Raise Over $3,000 for Haiti Victims

**by Emily Delbridge '13**
*News Writer*

Hamilton organizations have raised over $3,000 to help the victims of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on Jan. 12.

A collaborative group including the Sigma Lambda Upsilon sorority, the Black Latino Student Union, La Unidad Latina, the Lambda Upsilon Lambda fraternity and the Social Justice Initiative collected nearly half of Hamilton's reported total. The group raised money by selling Candy Grams for Valentine's Day and by asking for donations in Beinecke Student Activities Village and at basketball games. The West Indian and African Association (WIAA) also collected money in Beinecke for a total of $540, and ELS recently sold Valentine's Day cards and raised $400 for the relief effort. In addition, the Sigma Lambda Upsilon coalition has collected five bags of clothing and supplies for victims.

The funds collected translate into aid for Haiti through several different organizations. WIAA chose Doctors Without Borders as their charity because it deducts only six percent of the amount of money donated. ELS is donating through Architecture For Humanity, which will help rebuild schools, hospitals, and community centers in the affected areas. Sigma Lambda Upsilon chose UNICEF (the United Nation's Children's Fund) because they have been working with the organization all year.

The Hamiltones and the Buffers have also participated in the effort. The Hamiltones are donating half of the proceeds from sales of their newly released CD to a

*see **Haiti,** page 3*

## Dartmouth Professor Maps Out U.S. Health Care Reform

**by Emily Anderson '13**
*Features Writer*

Students packed the pews of the Chapel on Thursday, Feb. 11, to hear Dartmouth College Professor of Economics Jonathan Skinner speak about health care reform in the United States. He laid out facts and figures about health care, and he evaluated the possible reasons why Americans need health care reform. Skinner concluded by proposing his own solution, a comprehensive overhaul to the current system.

First, Skinner polled the audience on whether they thought that a health care reform bill would pass this year. He estimated that about 15 percent of the audience raised their hands. Although the passage of legislation this year seems a bleaker prospect than it was at the end of last year, Skinner believes that the reform issue will be addressed "a lot sooner than we think."

Right now, the federal debt as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) is predicted to rise from about 64 percent today to over 200 percent over the next few decades if the existing growth rates continue, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Skinner reported that Medicare and Medicaid, not Social Security, would cause this enormous growth of debt. He described a "perfect storm" of rising individual health care costs and an aging population as the main reasons for this potential sharp increase.

Skinner also examined the reasons for the demise of affordable health care. Insurance companies, doctors, hospitals, pharmaceutical

*see **Health Care,** page 2*

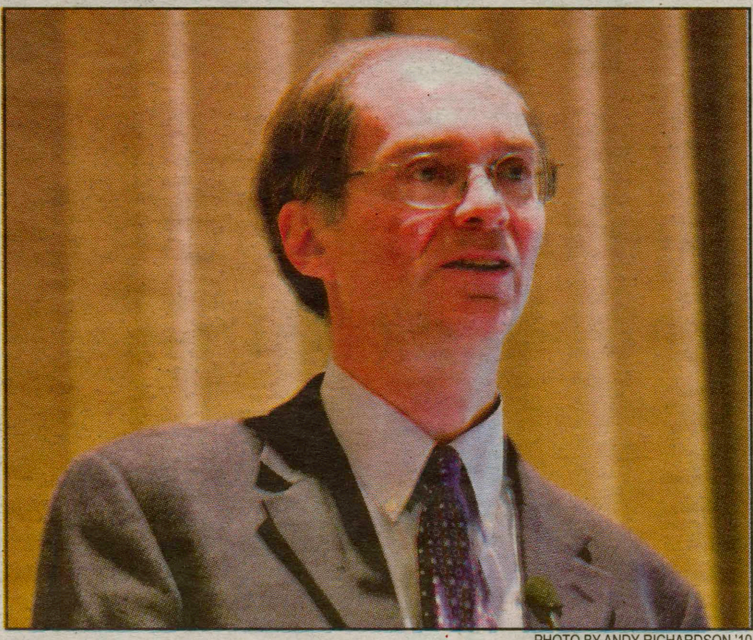


PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

**Professor Skinner speaks about the current climate for health care reform in the Chapel on Thursday, Feb. 11.**

*Face Off: Will the printing quota be a problem?* 5
*This Year's Mr. Hamilton* 10
*Former U.S. Ambassador Teaching Class* 13
*The Science of Chocolate Tasting* 14
*Club Hockey Team Off to Hot Start* 19

# Isserman Views Hamilton's Future Through Lens of Past

by Kerry Coughlin '11
*News Writer*

Amidst all of the FebFest activities, the Hamilton community can partake in a number of Hamilton traditions, some older than others. Fortunately, these activities no longer include some Hamilton traditions from the 19th century, such as Chapel Row, when the sophomores trapped the first-years inside the Chapel. On Sunday, Feb. 14 at the Clinton Historical Society, Professor of History Maurice Isserman elaborated on these traditions and other aspects of the history of Hamilton College.

Though the main theme of Isserman's discussion was the "fate of reform and change on the Hill," he began with a few anecdotes. Sophomores may bemoan the walk to Bundy, but back when the College was founded, there were no dining halls, and thus students walked all the way down the hill to Clinton for meals twice a day.

"There was really no need for a physical education program," joked Isserman.

During the winter-time, students would avoid the walk by sledding down the hill instead. The ritual eventually became a competition between fraternities, who decorated their sleds with their insignias and clocked their speed down the hill, which sometimes reached 50 miles per hour.

When Hamilton was first founded, it was far different from the open-curriculum, co-ed liberal arts institution that it is today. Its education was "systematic, invariable, unchanging" and, according to Isserman, revolved around the study of classical languages and texts. There were no electives, and class years did not mix in classes. In order to be admitted to Hamilton, one had to demonstrate proficiency in both Latin and Greek to the president of the College.

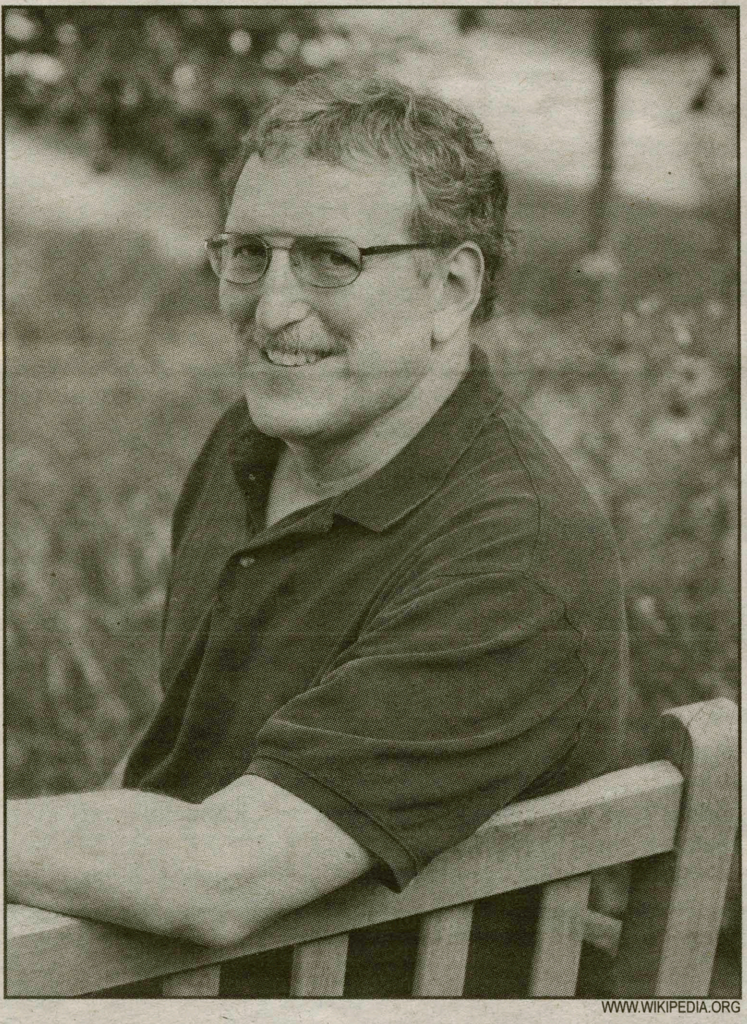
The first voices calling for change in the admissions process came from alumni who had moved out West, where Greek was not as frequently taught, and whose children were therefore unable to gain admittance to Hamilton. However, the president at the time, Melancthon Woolsely Stryker, was strongly against change. To Stryker, Hamilton's ninth president, dropping the Latin and Greek requirements was a "superficial and sleazy scheme." He preferred a "clean and resolute old-fashioned college" to "an educational café or a country club."

It wasn't until the College's eleventh president, Harold Cowley, arrived that true changes came about. He adjusted the admissions requirements and instituted outside evaluations of departments and student evaluations of courses and faculty, which, Isserman remarked, were often "quite damning." This led to a bit of strife between Cowley and faculty, and Cowley eventually resigned.

Isserman concluded by emphasizing the need to find "the right balance between reverence for the past and relevance to the fast-changing world." He said, "Tradition is alive, warm and growing, not something dead and cold. [Hamilton's] greatest days are still to come."

Isserman's knowledge of the history of Hamilton comes from his work on a book of the official bicentennial history of Hamilton, which is due to be published by Thanksgiving of 2010.

Isserman remarked that while doing his research, he ran into many alumni in the archives of the basement of Burke Library. He saw very few students in his eighteen months of research, however. Thus, he has decided to teach a seminar on Hamilton history that will use the archives. The course is currently undergoing consideration by the Committee of Academic Policy, and Isserman hopes for it to be offered for the first time in the spring semester of 2011.



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**Professor of History Maurice Isserman is writing a book on Hamilton's history to be published in November 2010.**

# NESCAC NEWS

by Amanda Jordan '10
*News Writer*

### *Amherst College, Middlebury College and Williams College*

On Feb. 12, the Gates Cambridge Trust awarded 29 new Gates Cambridge Scholarships to American students pursuing postgraduate degrees at the University of Cambridge beginning in Oct. 2010. The scholarship covers the full cost of tuition at Cambridge and includes airfare and living expenses. The 2010 Gates Cambridge Scholars were selected from an initial pool of around 800 applicants, which was eventually narrowed to a group of 104 students who interviewed in Annapolis, MD on Feb. 5 and Feb 6. Since the scholarship program was instituted in 2000, funded by a $210 million donation by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge, there have been 911 Gates Scholars from 91 countries. This year, the 2010 Gates Cambridge Scholars included three students from NESCAC schools – Clare Howard, Sky Feuer and Emily Gladden.

Clare Howard, a senior neuroscience major at Amherst College, will be studying for a master's degree in Philosophy in Biological Science at Cambridge. A resident of Newton, MA, Howard has spent summers working at the Children's Hospital Boston and NYU Medical Center. She plans to develop a career as a physician-scientist, with a particular focus on neuro-developmental disorders.

Sky Feuer, a senior molecular biology and biochemistry major at Middlebury College, also intends to pursue her master's in Philosophy in Biological Science. This Hanover, NH-native is the first Middlebury undergraduate to become a Gates Scholar. Feuer was an Amgen Scholar at Columbia University in the summer of 2008. At Cambridge, she hopes to study developmental biology and epigenetics, before beginning a Ph.D. to research developmental and cancer biology.

Emily Gladden, a 2007 graduate of Williams College and Princeton, NJ resident, plans to complete a master's degree in Philosophy in Criminology while at Cambridge. She received majors in Psychology and English while at Williams. She currently works as the Paralegal Supervisor for the Federal Defenders of New York, Inc., which represents impoverished clients who have been charged with federal crimes. Gladden is interested in studying ways to improve rehabilitation efforts for first-time and young offenders while at Cambridge. Upon returning to the U.S., she plans to attend law school.

### *Middlebury College, Williams College, Connecticut College and Bowdoin College*

The Peace Corps recently released "Peace Corps Top Colleges 2010," a list that ranks colleges and universities based on the number of Peace Corps volunteers they produced in 2009. In the small colleges and universities category, four NESCAC schools made the top-25 list. Middlebury College ranked third of small colleges and universities and first among the NESCAC for the most Peace Corps volunteers in 2009. The other NESCAC schools included Williams College (6), Connecticut College (15) and Bowdoin College (22). Leo I. Higdon Jr., President of Connecticut College and former Peace Corps volunteer, said, "The Peace Corps developed in me a greater sensitivity to people. Looking back, I can tell you that my liberal arts degree gave me a foundation for success, my MBA gave me specific skills and the Peace Corps gave me soul."

# Jonathan Skinner Advocates Voucher Health Care System

*from **Health Care**, page 1*

companies, administrative costs, malpractice lawyers and consumers all play a role in the escalating costs, but Skinner said no single group is the primary culprit.

Skinner works with the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care, which examines how health care practices and costs differ across different regions of the country. Skinner presented one map, for example, that showed the Miami-Dade area having the highest individual costs. The rest of the map revealed the drastic variations in health care costs across the country.

Skinner said that more spending does not buy better quality health care; in fact, there was a negative correlation between cost and quality of care.

Additionally, he noted that a significant problem lies in the fact that doctors get reimbursed at lower levels under Medicaid and Medicare than from private insurance companies for the same procedures. To make up for this, some doctors increase the number of patients they see in a day. This results in lower quality care, and more procedures being done than are necessary.

After explaining the shortcomings of America's current health care system, Skinner discussed his "Cookbook for Health Care Reform," which rests on a three-pronged platform.

First, he advocates for universal coverage using vouchers. Every citizen would get one, funded by a value-added tax. This program was originally proposed by Ezekiel Emanuel and Victor Fuchs in 2005. The government would collect money for health care and then distribute it to insurance companies. Individuals who want more coverage could purchase a separate insurance plan in addition to a voucher.

Second, he promotes the idea of accountable care organizations (ACOs). These are hospital and physician networks that would be rewarded for having high quality and low costs, an incentive to save money and keep enrollees satisfied.

Finally, he believes that patients should "get what they want." Skinner believes shared decision making by doctors and patients would vastly improve the current system.

Skinner understands that the debate over health care reform is ongoing, and concluded by saying simply, "If we don't fix it, it's really a problem."

# Lunar New Year Shows Roots of Celebration

PHOTO BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

**Professor of Economics Stephen Wu performs at the Lunar New Year celebration in the Annex on Feb. 12.**

**by Arianne Bergman '13**
*News Writer*

This time around, the Lunar New Year celebration in the Annex featured more than just food and entertainment. Leading the event for the first time, the International Student Association wanted to add more cultural information to the customary food and entertainment program of past years.

The event's usual sponsor, the Asian Cultural Society, helped ISA with the preparation, but was not able to host the evening due to an outstanding bill from the same event two years prior.

Held on Friday, Feb. 12, the night began with myths and customs associated with the Lunar New Year, including stories told in both Mandarin Chinese and in English, and continued with a short performance.

"We decided to create a skit to re-enact the Zodiac race to engage our audience," said ISA president Kumar Bhardwaj '10. "We wanted our event to be more informative and interactive, thus we decided to make a presentation explaining the significance and methods in which Lunar New Year is celebrated."

Following the formal program, a dinner catered by Mitsuba was served.

"This year, we decided to get Japanese food, instead of the usual Chinese food, to include the several groups that still maintain this tradition," said Bhardwaj.

Katy Mastrocola '13, who attended Friday's event, was unsure about the choice of cuisine.

"If there were a good Chinese, Korean or Vietnamese restaurant around then it would have been a much more authentic food choice," she said.

Planning for the event took a few weeks, and those in attendance still found it somewhat disorganized.

"I think that the skit was entertaining, but it was really frustrating how long it took them to get everything together and actually start the program," said Jessica Carroll '12.

"If they were more organized and spread out the distribution of food better, I feel it would have been a more effective way of communicating the values and spirit of the Chinese New Year."

Despite this sentiment, Bhardwaj indicated that the event was a success.

"In comparison to previous years, our event was more informative and more interactive, and had a much better turn out than last year...almost a full house."

# Bundy Residents Moving Out Amid Concerns Over Asbestos

*from **Asbestos**, page 1*

he "somewhat jokingly" suggested that the students who have to move should be further compensated with top numbers in this year's housing lottery. He and some of the other students who supported the lottery idea, however, are doubtful that Residential Life will grant them such a privilege.

As reported in *The Spectator* on Feb. 11, Hamilton hired an engineering firm to test for asbestos in Bundy East and West Residence Halls over this past winter break. Engineers found that the ceilings in both residence halls tested positive for asbestos.

While there was no immediate health risk to residents, the engineers recommended that the College stabilize 11 areas where the ceilings were cracked or beginning to delaminate. These 11 areas include the rooms of the students who must now move.

Bellona said that the rest of the student rooms in the Bundy Residence Halls are "intact and stable" and that the College does not anticipate having to move any more residents from Bundy East or West.

Physical Plant hopes to eliminate all of the asbestos in the Bundy Residence Halls this summer, when they plan on replacing the ceilings that have been in place since the buildings were constructed in 1970.

## *SA Update*

### New Name for Diversity Committee

**by Eve Denton '12**
*Student Assembly Correspondent*

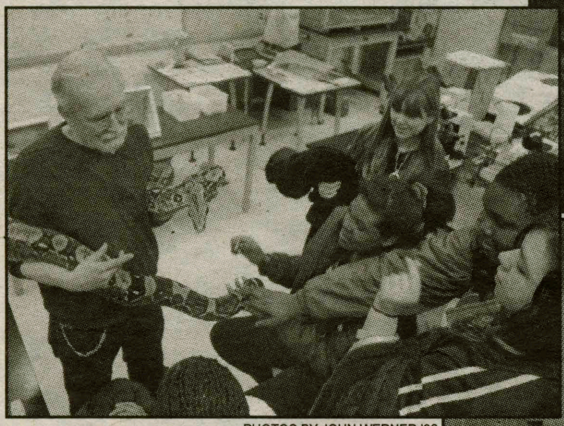
Following last week's discussion regarding the future of the Diversity and Accessibility Committee, the committee has been renamed the Culture and Accessibility Committee. In addition, the mission statement of the committee has been changed to reflect their current goals. The committee is working on a possible trip to New York City on Saturday, Feb. 27.

The Student Interests Committee is also in the process of planning a trip for Feb. 27. The trip will take students on a tour of the Saranac Brewery factory, which is located in Utica. Tickets for this trip will be sold in the week leading up to the event in Beinecke.

# *Hamilton Hosts Citizen Schools Students*

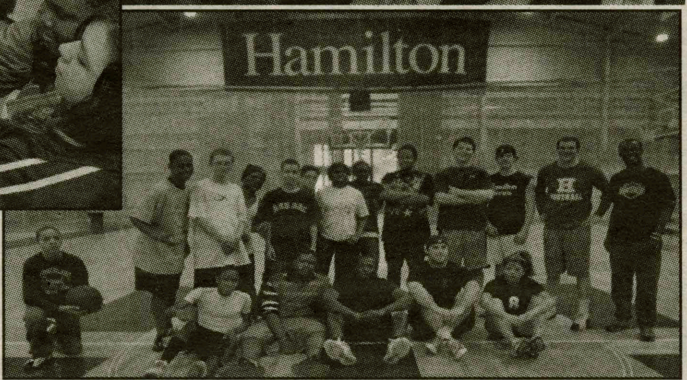
For the sixth year in a row, students from the Eighth Grade Academy, a program by Boston's Citizen Schools, have visited Hamilton in order to get a glimpse of college life. The 34 eighth grade students from four different middle schools in the greater Boston area arrived on campus on Wednesday, Feb. 17. While at Hamilton, they have had the opportunity to learn more about the college admissions process, play a basketball game with the football team (which the Citizen Schools students won 27-19) and attend classes and a talent show. This taste of college life allows Citizen Schools' students to see what the future holds for them if they continue to work hard.

*See next week's issue for a detailed review of the students' visit to campus.*



PHOTOS BY JOHN WERNER '92

**Professor of Biology, David Gapp, introduces Citizen Schools students to some special residents of the Science Center.**




**Citizen Schools' eighth grade students pose with varsity athletes after a friendly basketball game.**

# Student Groups Unite to Help Haiti Rebuild

*from **Haiti**, page 1*

Haitian hospital where a member's brother works. The funds will be used to help airlift wounded and malnourished victims from the affected area near Port-Au-Prince, the capital of Haiti.

There are boxes in designated areas across campus that serve as collection plates for the Haiti relief effort. Boxes in Commons Dining Hall, for example, where the Students for International Public Health Awareness were previously collecting change for a project in Kenya, are now collecting money for Haiti relief.

What has motivated these student organizations to respond to the Haitians disaster? For some, it hits close to home. This is the case for some members of the Hamiltones and WIAA, who have relatives in Haiti or are themselves of Haitian descent.

Stephanie Tafur '10 of Sigma Lambda Upsilon explained that, "many individuals in our organizations were affected by the earthquake either personally or knew people who were directly affected."

For others on campus, the effort is an exercise in humanity. Jatnna Amador '11, also of Sigma Lambda Upsilon, said, "Haiti is already the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, and they cannot deal with this disaster by themselves. They need all of the support, especially monetary donations, that they can get. On a daily basis, the Hamilton community spends a lot [of money] on leisure. During these times, we should worry about helping those in need instead of ourselves."

Many of the groups interviewed for this article have expressed similar hopes that Hamilton will keep Haiti in their thoughts as the relief effort continues.

## THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

# Credit Where Credit is Due:

### *Reevaluating Hamilton's Current Credit System*

Why does Hamilton not use the credit hour system that is utilized by the majority of other colleges? The most common explanation is that, due to the liberal arts ideals of the college, all classes should be treated equally. But try telling this to the students taking organic chemistry, who have to work extra hours on pre-labs, in labs and on lab reports, all in addition to their reading, studying and review sessions. Students face the same issues taking film classes that meet to watch films outside of normal class times or language classes that meet four to five times a week, with additional time for language tables and TA sessions on top of that.

The credit hour system would weigh classes more fairly so that the amount of time put in is equivalent to the credits received.

To see the need to transition from an outdated system to a more widely implemented one, look back no further than this year. This year, Hamilton switched from its antiquated 98 point GPA scale to the 4.0 scale. The change means that students can now list their GPA on the various application forms that require it without having to adjust it to a 4.0 scale using a calculator. Never again will students have to stumble through an explanation about how their GPA is actually better than it seems because it is only out of 98.

Such a change would also be helpful to offices like the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office, which is already busy enough, would no longer have to waste time writing letters to outside parties, like insurance companies, to explain that a full time student at Hamilton receives four, not 16 credits a semester.

However admirable the idea of treating all classes equally may be, it seriously conflicts with another ideal that we claim to value: giving credit where credit is due. The truth is that there are some classes that require more of a commitment than others. Surely the College has means to identify in which classes this is the case and the College can then use examples from other schools as a guide to make the transition as smooth as possible.

There are certain distinguishing characteristics of Hamilton in which we should all take great pride. Our ability to adapt, as we have seen, is one of them. Our current credit system, on the other hand, remains a great pain.

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*First published as* The Radiator *in 1848.*

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**Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.**

**Nevertheless, *The Spectator* has the following policies for submission:**

**1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.**
**2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.**
**3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.**
**4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.**
**5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.**

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# Face Off: Will the New Printing Policy Become a Pressing Problem?

by Lauren Magaziner '12
and Patrick Landers '12
*Opinion Writers*

**Patrick:** I think the new Hamilton printing system is a long overdue measure. This program makes students more conscientious of the financial and environmental costs of their marginal printing decisions, besides allowing the College to recoup its losses from those profligate students who go over the printing quota. Economic theory and common sense suggests that students will respond to their incentives and find ways to moderate their habits by reducing wasteful printing; or if the quota is set low enough, make students put their money where their 'click-happy' fingers are.

**Lauren:** Although I understand that Hamilton College wants to save money, the new printing system to be implemented next semester is ridiculous. When Hamilton College claims to offer materials to students who don't have access to personal computers and printers, I think that they should follow through on that promise. With all the expenses that students pay to attend this college, the cost of printing shouldn't be an issue.

**Patrick:** While Hamilton may have offered public computer and printing services in the past, this is merely a privilege, not a right. Since many other colleges already have similar systems in place, Hamilton's policy would not place an unusual burden on students. Like all students, (and as a student on financial aid), I dislike the idea of having to pay for services. However, I'm confident that I can find ways to control my printing, I consider any money I owe due to over-quota printing comparable to the cost of buying a textbook, and I worry about the environmental impact of students who presently have no incentive to control their printing.

**Lauren:** However, many times students cannot control their printing. Depending on the department, students will have an incredible amount of materials to print out in addition to buying many textbooks. For example, in my philosophy class, I had to buy two expensive textbooks and I still have to print out reading from e-reserves. In my history class, I needed to print out many JSTOR articles for papers in addition to the textbooks that I already bought for that class. I can understand the argument of substituting the price of over-quota printing for the cost of a textbook, if the price actually negated the use of a textbook. But the cold truth is that it does not. It is simply an added cost that should not exist considering both Hamilton's hefty tuition and large endowment. Not to mention, I don't think it is fair that I have to pay money to submit papers and assignments for the classes that I already pay for. That just seems like overkill. As far as my environmental impact, I am sympathetic toward the trees, but I have no control over what my professors assign me.

**Patrick:** While some courses will have more textbook AND printing costs than others, I don't see the difference between this and the current cost disparities between courses. You underestimate how much control students have over their printing, since students can read shorter documents on their computers. However, I understand that reading on a computer screen takes longer and prevents a student from being able to physically mark-up a document, so that most documents will still need to be printed. Nevertheless, students can decrease margins and font size while abstaining from printing unnecessary cover and reference pages. This system really just shifts costs because students are already paying for printing through their "hefty tuition," since the College isn't using the endowment or donations to cover printing expenditures directly or indirectly. Hamilton wants the endowment to grow annually, and therefore tuition payments must cover most, if not all, of the college's actual operating expenses. Printing fees will actually promote fairness since they will charge students the cost of their courses and disciplines, as opposed to the current system which has low-printing students subsidizing the costs of spendthrift students.

**Lauren:** It seems as though the new system punishes what you call "spendthrift" students, but it does not reward low-printing students by any means. The low-printing students will still pay the same amount of tuition with the new system. I personally do not think that reading shorter documents on the computer is even possible, seeing as students are often expected to bring reading materials to class. Decreasing margins, though it saves pages, causes confusion in class when students with different printed versions are attempting to be on the same page. My objections to your argument are neither here nor there, for it seems as though we are at an impasse when determining how much control students have over their printing. However, I still maintain that the printing expense is not the fault of the particular student, but rather a necessary result of the courses he or she is taking. Therefore, why should a student be punished for the classes he/she takes?

**Patrick:** You discuss how under the current system you have little control over what professors assign in terms of required printing. This lack of control is an illusion, since you simply don't have any motivation to exert your "demand-side" power. This system will give students an incentive to influence their "suppliers," aka professors, to reduce costs by having faculty print required readings themselves with department funds, more carefully select assignments and accept paper submissions via email. In extreme conditions, departments and professors will have an inducement to keep the costs of their courses low to prevent acquiring a reputation for being a costly field for students. This could affect course enrollments and in turn faculty positions and funding for a given discipline. This system will simply reduce unnecessary printing and charge students for their excess printing as if it was a textbook, in the end actually reducing the cost of printing for the average student. Finally, I find it amusing that so many students I've spoken to support environmentalism in words and government action but are unwilling to make personal sacrifices via this program. The word for this is hypocrisy.

**Lauren:** Students do not actually have "demand-side" power. I don't think professors can even control the expense of their own department; some departments are naturally more costly than others. For example, psychology, with its numerous lab reports and research articles, is going to be a lot more expensive than mathematics. Creative writing, with its numerous workshops for short stories up to 25 pages long (and up to 16 copies for each person in the class expected to workshop), is going to be a lot more expensive than physics. Also, some assignments, like a creative writing short story, must be printed out because it is impossible to workshop a piece via computer. Is it fair that certain departments require that students become spendthrift printers? If the printing system actually deters enrollment into certain classes because of fear of having to pay extra costs, then it is a sad day for Hamilton College. I don't think that any department should only include people who can afford the extra costs; all departments should be open and available to everyone without extra cost deterrents. As for each department footing the bill for e-reserves, I think it is a favorable but completely unrealistic idea.

**MARKETPLACE TOPICS**

| Topic |
|---|
| Sacred Matters book Pop Culture Religion |
| FOR SALE: Calc Textbook |
| Libby Financial Accounting 6e for sale |
| Accounting book for sell |
| Accounting Book for Sale!!! |
| Textbooks for Sale |
| Econ 101 book for sell |

MY.HAMILTON.EDU

# Students Should Consider Alternative Book Exchange

by Evan Klondar '11
*Editor-At-Large*

It's common knowledge that the worst way to get money back from your books is to go to the Barnes & Noble bookstore in Bristol. Students receive relatively little for the value of the book, while B&N resells the book at a constant price every year. If a book that sells for $20 is bought back for $10 and is resold for $20 each year, B&N gets $10 per year for selling the same increasingly-worn book.

Third-party retailers like Belltower Books are a little bit better for students since they generally pay more. A third option, currently more difficult than using a reseller, is simply selling books directly to another student.

But even the third-party book sellers make a cut off the top, and finding students who need your book is currently a challenge. There is a simple solution: students should organize a book sale/exchange forum online.

Why should we do it? It makes economic sense. Any store that offers to buy back our books is going to be making money off the top. Some places take less than others, but we don't need any middleman. We have the means of creating a perfect market—a simple, student-sponsored exchange with no fees of any kind. The cost of running a website each year is only $20 or $30, very affordable for a small group of students willing to pitch in voluntarily. A club could even run this exchange with Student Assembly funds.

Some would point to the Hamilton or Facebook marketplaces as good existing sites to sell your books. The marketplace is not well-trafficked; it is buried in the My Hamilton interface and it's cluttered with other offers. Both MyHamilton and Facebook also face a problem with categorization; a sociology book is sold above a chemistry book, which in turn is sold above a philosophy book. A special forum for book sales could include a discussion board for each major, or even each course.

The College might be able to set this board up itself, if it can do so without violating its contract with B&N. If it cannot, however, we should take the lead and establish a student book forum online to get more for our money. If anyone is interested in exploring this project, drop me a line at eklondar. I'll be interested to hear other ideas on how we can create a more equitable book purchasing process.

# Letters to the Editor

## RE: Professor Hill

To the Editor:

A college, a wise man once said, "cannot make a man of bad inclination into a good man." But as Cara Beth Lombardi '11 and Katie Hoar '11 have acknowledged in their impassioned letter to the editor (Feb. 11), a good professor can excite uninspired students to reach unimagined standards of excellence.

Chris Hill joined the Hamilton faculty in 2006 on a term appointment without Ph.D. in hand. He came highly recommended. Senior professors in my department counseled him to concentrate on his teaching while he completed his dissertation. Although I cannot say I know him well (he has never broken bread at my house; nor have I broken bread at his), he acquitted himself in the classroom most admirably. As Ms. Lombardi and Ms. Hoar point out, Professor Hill, now having fulfilled his doctoral requirements, teaches more students than any other member of the history department. He enjoys quite a student following. I have visited his classroom on more than one occasion and in evaluating him for the record, have compared his teaching to that of my award-winning colleague Douglas Ambrose, one of the finest teachers on the Hamilton College campus. Professor Hill has a bright, versatile mind; unlike many academics, he thinks outside the box.

Ms. Lombardi and Ms. Hoar assert that the decision to elevate term appointments to a more permanent status at the College "rests within the department." To be sure, tenured members of the department usually have a good deal of say as to who has full-time or tenure-track status within it, but their power is not absolute. Administrators—deans and presidents, for example—intervene in departments from time to time to overturn decisions of the tenured faculty and even to impose persons on departments. Nor is it true, as Dean Urgo pronounced in *The Spectator* on Jan. 21, 2010, that "At . . . Hamilton, if the professor is not a superb teacher then that's it [for tenure]." Every senior professor at this institution knows full well of multiple tenure cases when factors other than "superb" teaching decisively entered the calculus, when the candidate who received the award fell well below excellence in the classroom, even below—to borrow a baseball term—the Mendoza line of mediocrity.

In a recent email communication (unanswered) to Chairman of the Board A. G. Lafley, I politely attempted to bring to his attention some interesting information about Professor Hill. A few days ago, in announcing the achievements of one Hamilton professor, the College's website boasted that she had been nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize three times. Well folks, allow me to provide you with some news. Chris Hill *won* the Pushcart Editors' Book Award—as a graduate student—for a novel (*Virtual Morality*) that brilliantly satirizes political correctness. Unlike for poems or short stories, the Pushcart selection committee awards only one book prize annually. Writers regard the Pushcart as one of the most prestigious literary prizes in the United States.

Perhaps Mr. Lafley, Kevin Kennedy and other powerful trustees at this institution will find it most curious that prize-winning Professor Hill, a closeted libertarian, in taking the lay of the land at Hamilton College shortly after his arrival, felt compelled to hide his accomplishment for fear of antagonizing Hamilton's left-of-center majority faction.

Certain administrators and trustees at Hamilton College have made much in recent years of the need for collegiality and civility—we should add honesty—in the conduct of business on campus. But then again in the real world, as we all know, there are more than geese and ganders. In November 2009, Professor Hill wrote President Stewart and Dean Urgo a polite, thoughtful letter that raised several important questions surrounding his case and about the political climate on campus. To date, neither President Stewart nor Dean Urgo has responded with so much as a one-sentence dollop of courtesy that acknowledged the letter's receipt.

Near the end of April, the founders of the Alexander Hamilton Institute will be holding on site a celebration for Professor Hill to thank him for his four-year contributions to the College. We invite all of his students past and present to attend the event. The AHI will have on hand copies of *Virtual Morality* for Professor Hill to inscribe. I highly recommend a close reading of the novel. Careful readers will find a number of delicious analogues between characters in Professor Hill's fictional Colorado campus and current denizens of Hamilton College.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Paquette
Co-founder,
Alexander Hamilton Institute
Publius Virgilius Rogers Professor of American History

## RE: WHCL Face Off

To the Editor:

With four semesters of DJing under my belt and as the leader of the WHCL organization, I took offense at the factual inaccuracies offered by Rachel Lieb '13 in the last week's Face-Off section. She wrote that, "The radio station, however, has made no effort to advertise or encourage people to listen; and as a result they have almost no listeners." This is not true. We send out all-campus emails, place posters around campus, give out bumper stickers and sunglasses, and have a late night activity planned in April in order to raise our publicity. On my radio show alone, we've had ten listeners at one time streaming WHCL on their computers alone, not to mention the 250,000 other potential listeners we reach on radios in the Utica-Rome area whose listenership we cannot quantify.

Radio is not a failed technology because it cannot be downloaded and placed on an iPod. College radio allows college students and community DJs to play the music that they want for decades and not what commercial forces dictate they should play, as is the case on Top 40 radio. Rather than an organization of the past, as Lieb suggests, we have adapted to new media technology, with online streaming available and a frequently updated tumblr blog. WHCL is not a source of controversy and contention as it appears in the Face-Off article; it is a mainstay on Hamilton's campus that isn't going anywhere for a long time. Every day student and community DJs eagerly prepare playlists of their favorite music and countless friends, family and off-campus listeners tune in to hear a diverse range of musical genres and themed shows. Perhaps many Hamilton students just aren't paying very much attention. Big surprise.

Sincerely,
Henry Anreder '12

# All-Campus Listserv Promotes Participation in Community Events

**by Elizabeth Scholz '13**
*Opinion Writer*

In the time that it has taken me to write this article, I have received two all-campus e-mails. Every day we receive at least ten all-campus e-mails notifying us about everything from speakers to parties to campus-wide events. They flood our inboxes and sometimes we receive several notifications for the same event in the course of a few hours.

While these e-mails keep us informed and engaged at Hamilton, how many people actually read them? Are they worth the time and effort spent writing and sending the e-mail? Or do people just delete them without looking at them because they think them useless? In other words, should these e-mails be stopped?

Student Activities limits the number of all-campus e-mails an organization can send about a single event. Each group is limited to two e-mails per event, and in order to obtain listserv privileges, an organization has to be approved. If an organization chooses to exceed this number, it can lose its listserv privileges.

This process should keep our inboxes mainly clutter free, but it does not. Instead, nearly every time I check my e-mail I get a new e-mail from the all-campus listserv (ALL CAMPUS-A) that informs me of another event. It should be noted that a proposal has been set forward to amend the way the listserv works. Many of these suggestions seem to solve many of the problems that the listserv causes. In fact, I would argue that all-campus e-mails do more good than harm.

While these e-mails do at times seem a bit overwhelming, they are generally informative. Instead of thinking that these e-mails are just an annoying waste of inbox space, we should try to be optimistic and think of them as a demonstration of all the wonderful opportunities that Hamilton has to offer. We have had so many opportunities to listen to interesting presentations such as the Female Orgasm and Sacerdote Great Names Speakers, and to hear musicians like Adam Harvey and The Kooks. These e-mails can also be informative by telling us about everything from the Opus meals of the week to the hours of free skate. They can tell us about fundraisers, trips and internships for which we can sign up.

Although at times I can get frustrated by the mass quantities of e-mails (especially when I delete some e-mail that I actually need), for the most part I support all-campus e-mails because they keep us informed about the activities on campus and tell us where and when the speakers, activities, fundraisers and concerts happen. I mean, who wants to miss the Matt and Kim concert because they didn't get their reminder email?

## Thumbs Up: The Vagina Monologues

My vagina is a coastline: sandy and often covered with crabs.

My vagina is like a car at a gas station. Fill 'er up.

My vagina is like Forrest Gump; it's always running and smells of shrimp.

My vagina is like the urine trough in a stadium; it's where all the dicks hang out.

My vagina is like Commons: oddly unsatisfying and packed three times a day.

My vagina is like the KJ water feature: 40 feet long and dry as a bone.

My vagina is like the ELS basement: weird, damp and hoping to be back in service soon.

My vagina is like a HEAG mug: bright red and often recycled.

My vagina is like a space ship: expensive and filled with seven men for months at a time.

My vagina is like Knit Happens: industrious, awkward and covered in fuzz.

My vagina is like the plot of Avatar: unappreciated and identical to Pocahontas.

My vagina is like a Gmail account: no space limit.

My vagina is like a black board: chalky and often neglected.

My vagina is like the Dunham basement: full of international students and substance-free.

My vagina is well-adjusted, unthreatened by humor and approves of this column. - LR

*by Anthony DelConte '10, Nathan Fedrizzi '10 and Lesley Ryder '11*

**Disclaimer:** The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

*Editor's Note: We at* The Spectator *think the Vagina Monologues is a great event which raises awareness for a very worthy cause. For coverage of the Vagina Monologues,* *see page 11.*

# Orchestra Brings a Majestic Sound

by Allison Eck '12
*Opinion Editor*

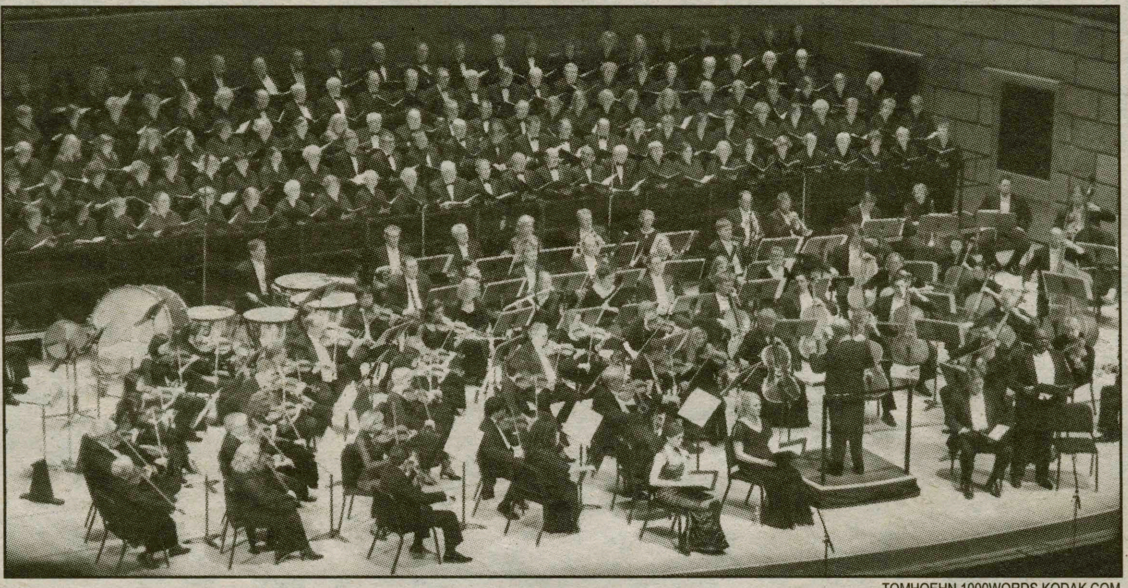
The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra gave a brilliant performance last Friday night as part of the Hamilton College Performing Arts "Classical Connections" series. The program, which gave listeners a chance to indulge in the music of both Strauss and Schumann, consisted of many flashy orchestral moments and billowy vocal lines. Best of all, the concert provided Hamilton students with the opportunity to experience upper-tier professional musicianship.

The program opened with *Don Juan*, a tone poem based on the poem of the same name by Nikolaus Lenau. The orchestra's ease in dealing with such rich orchestration was particularly striking, but also select individuals' ability to step out of that sphere of sound briefly and into something of their own. All musicians can learn from this concept. For example, I was particularly impressed with principal oboist Erik Behr, who played a beautiful solo in *Don Juan*. The way he and the other instrumentalists blended together and then emerged occasionally from the musical system demonstrated the ability to understand the other parts while still maintaining a sense of what he wants to say in his own. I think anyone can relate to this concept academically or aesthetically.

Next on the program was Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, which, especially in the third and fourth songs, contained some achingly beautiful moments. It was the kind of beauty that is not readily obvious, as it has no distinctly repeating melody, but is more rewarding for this reason. Again, I think that a person who is not necessarily well-versed in classical music could still take something away from listening to *Four Last Songs*. The RPO performed the piece with a delicate eye and soprano Twyla Robinson's voice was pristine and glorious.

The last number was Schumann's *Symphony No.3 in E-flat major*. The performance of this piece was wonderful, but nothing really stirred in me while listening to it. However, I would say that this piece has an indirect effect, because the next day I caught myself humming a melody I did not recognize. It turned out that it was Schumann and that I had unconsciously internalized it. This is the kind of effect that I think results from a very well done concert.

The turnout for this performance was slightly lower than I expected, which was frustrating. It is my hope that more Hamilton students attend concerts like these in the future. It is important for students to attend these events: Even if it is not your taste, experiment a little and appreciate the excellence that comes out of a lifetime of hard work.



TOMHOEHN.1000WORDS.KODAK.COM

**The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra which brought an intense and captivating sound to campus through Hamilton's Performing Arts series "Classical Connections".**

# Students United in Theater Production

by Emily Gerston '11
*Arts and Entertainment Writer*

"Borders and Boundaries," a performance piece by Shannon Stanfield '07 and Professor of Theatre Carole A. Bellini-Sharp, will be performed in the List Art Center Studio (List 104) on Friday, Feb. 19 and Saturday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF "BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES"

Stanfield and Bellini-Sharp created the piece by interviewing students at Hamilton as well as students participating in the Utica Municipal Housing Authority's YouthBuild program. YouthBuild is a national organization, which provides G.E.D. classes and on-site job training in construction. The program's graduates, many of whom are low-income students who may not otherwise have been able to finish high school and find employment, are also provided with assistance in their job hunt. These interviews with Hamilton and YouthBuild students were the inspiration for the various pieces of the performance, which include scenes, dialogues and monologues.

The Diversity and Social Justice project is sponsoring the performance, along with the Hamilton College Theatre Department, the Kirkland Endowment and, with help from Dave Zogby, the Municipal Housing Authority's community resource director. According to the Diversity and Social Justice Project's website, the group has made issues of citizenship its main focus this year.

"A community theatre project about borders and boundaries complemented [our] work perfectly," the website explains as to why it is sponsoring the performance of "Borders and Boundaries."

The performance is free and open to the public, but seating will be limited. For reservations, please call the box office at (315) 859-4057.

WWW.INDEPENDENTMUSICAWARDS.COM

# Katie Costello: The Multitalented Pixie


**CAB Acoustic Coffeehouse Presents: Katie Costello**

**Thursday Feb. 18**
**8 p.m.**
**The Barn**


Despite her biting sarcasm and unrepentant banter, Katie truly strives to be a sounding voice for the hopelessly warped, while simultaneously promoting the significance and paramount need for genuine creative passion. An artist in multiple media, Costello also enjoys drawing in addition to her singing career. Now living in Brooklyn, N.Y., Katie Costello is attempting (and marginally fulfilling) living the dream. Her songs have been featured on the CW shows "90210," "One Tree Hill" and ABC's "Private Practice."

# Weekly Charts

## MUSIC

*(billboard.com)*

### Top Songs

1. Ke$ha—"Tik Tok"
2. The Black Eyed Peas—"Imma Be"
3. Lady Antebellum—"Need You Now"
4. Young Money feat. Lloyd—"BedRock"
5. Lady Gaga—"Bad Romance"

### Top Albums

1. Lady Antebellum—*Need You Now*
2. Lil Wayne—*Rebirth*
3. Nick Jonas & The Administration—*Who I Am*
4. Lady Gaga—*The Fame*
5. Various Artists—*2010 Grammy Nominees*

## MOVIES

*(imdb.com)*

1. *Valentine's Day*
2. *Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief*
3. *The Wolfman*
4. *Avatar*
5. *Dear John*

## BOOKS

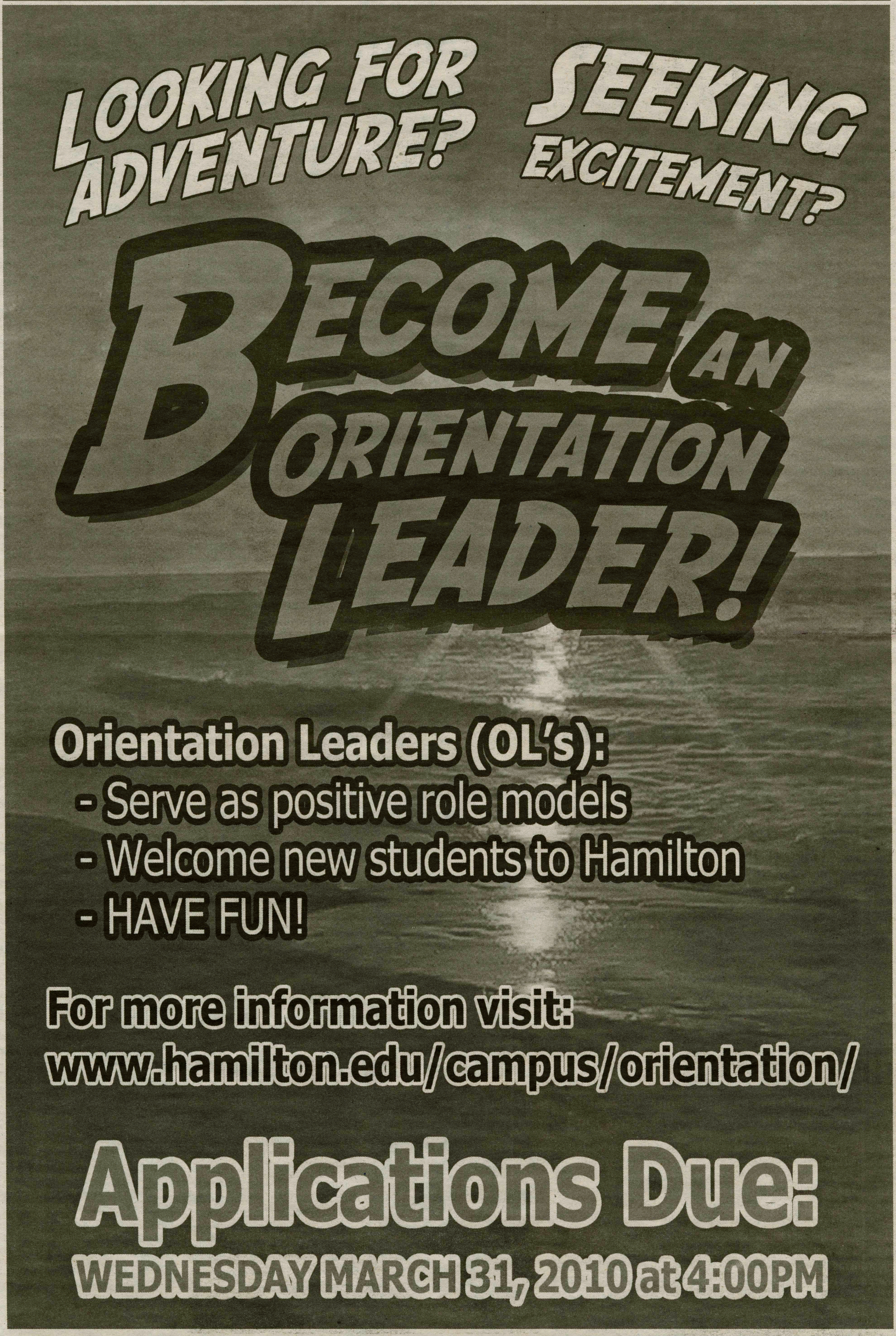
*(New York Times "Best Sellers")*

### Paperback Fiction

1. *A Reliable Wife*, by Robert Godrick
2. *The Last Song*, by Nicholas Sparks
3. *Dear John*, by Nicholas Sparks
4. *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson
5. *The Lovely Bones*, by Alice Sebold

### Paperback Non-Fiction

1. *The Lost City of Z*, by David Grann
2. *The Blind Side*, by Michael Lewis
3. *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortensen and David Oliver Relin
4. *A People's History of the United States*, by Howard Zinn
5. *Are You There Vodka? It's Me, Chelsea*, by Chelsea Handler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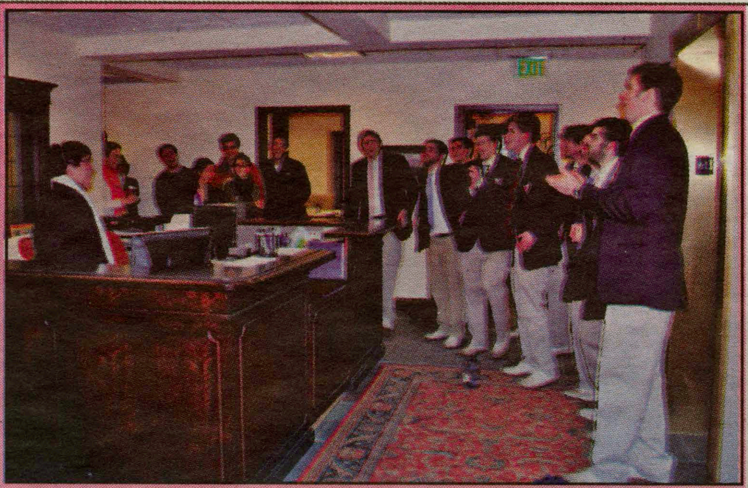


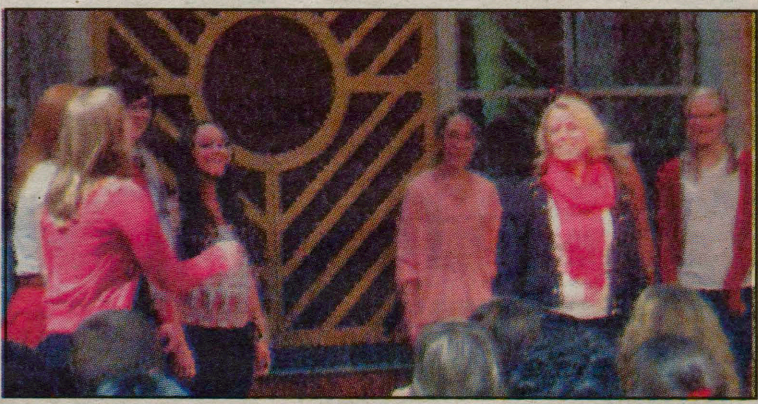
PHOTOS BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

## The Buffers Break Hearts with Buffergrams for Valentine's Day in Annual Tradition

Hamilton's all male *a capella* group, the Buffers, spent last Friday acting as minstrels for hire as they traveled around campus singing songs to unknowing recipients of Buffergrams.

Pictured here, the crowd in the lobby of the admissions office, including students, staff members and prospective students, watched and listened as the Buffers sang to Admission Visit Coordinator Ann Hobert-Pritchard. "They were wonderful. It was a great way to start the Valentine's Day weekend," Hobert-Pritchard said after being serenaded by the Buffers singing Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."

# Students Reach Out to Haiti Victims in a Benefit Concert



PHOTOS BY LILY GILLESPIE '12

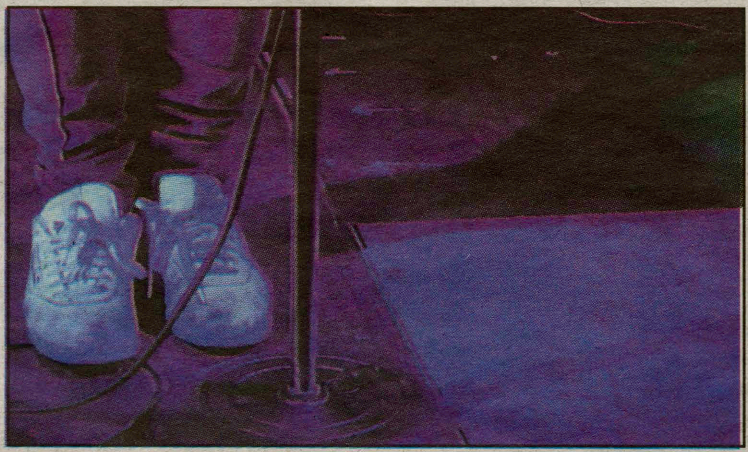
**by Lily Gillespie '12**
*Arts and Entertainment Editor*

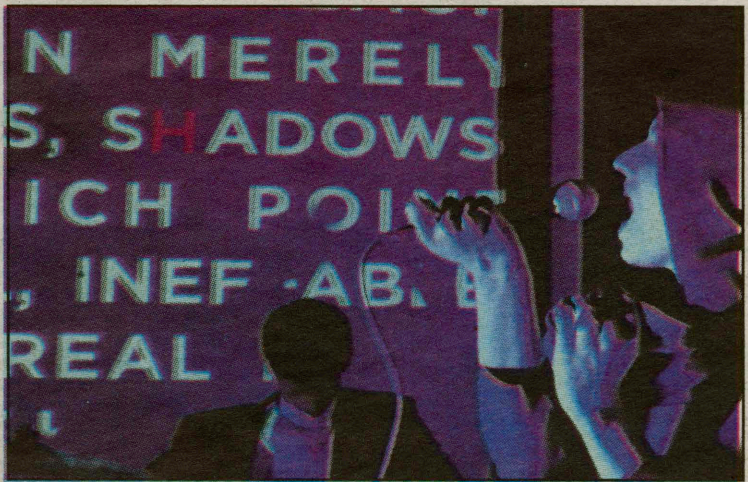
Hamilton is not as isolated as we think, and we were all recently made acutely aware of the realities of the real world following the massive earthquake that devastated Haiti. As a show of support and in an effort to raise funds to send to Haiti, Elsie Love, Sara Scheinson, and Julia Weis, all members of the Class of 2012, organized an *a capella* concert for the cause. The concert was phenomenal and featured performances by The Hamiltones, Special K and Tumbling After, as well as other non *a capella* acts. There was a great turnout and the audience seemed to enjoy the selection of songs each group assembled. Although brief, the concert seemed to serve its purpose in generating interest in the Haiti cause. In addition to the performance, the groups were selling CDs, proceeds from which were going to Haiti, along with money raised from donations and the sale of baked goods. This concert was just one of the many ways in which the Hamilton community has been doing its part to help the cause and simultaneously reminding ourselves that there is a world outside the Hamilton bubble.

***A capella* groups The Hamiltones (pictured above), Special K and Tumbling After performed to raise money for Haiti**

# YACHT Sails Away on Wave of Audience Energy

**by Mariela Meza '13**
*Arts and Entertainment Writer*





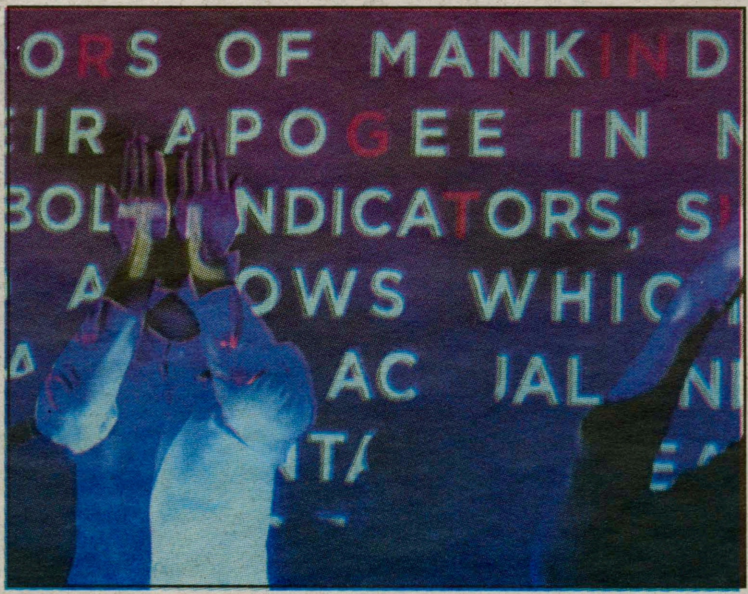

ALL PHOTOS BY JESSICA COX '10

Through bright neon lights and the sounds of electronica, Feb Fest kicked off with the energetic performance of YACHT and MNDR on Saturday night. MNDR opened the show, bearing the responsibility of getting the crowd hyped. After an intermission, the two-man band YACHT made their appearance dressed in a contrasting black cape-dress and a white suit, quite the contrast. All one could hear were the screams by the already overexcited fanatics of this electronica mixed- with –indie band. The "spazz-tic" nature as well as the heavy dependence on the base went in harmony with MNDR's opening performance.

In general, YACHT had a great stage performance and should receive kudos for audience interaction, from dancing with the audience on the floor to the responsive echo chant that took place at the end of the show. The crowd was very energetic and seemed to enjoy the lively performance supplemented by visuals in the background. Their songs are very upbeat and allowed for aimless jumping around. Signs of sweat, upbeat dancing and constant bumping into one another in the audience signified the success of YACHT within the Hamilton community.

As mentioned before, the very end of the show was unique and personally made me feel as if I was part of a cult (even though on their website YACHT adamantly states that they are NOT a cult). Jona, the male singer in the band, climbed on top of speakers, and with the help of the power point in the background, he even managed to make everyone scream profanities. This experience provided an escape from stress for those who "hate their parents" or "hate school" by having them yell "F*** YOU!" in response to Jona's suggestion.

The audience gave straightforward feedback: they either loved YACHT or they did not. It was hard to feel in between, given that every aspect of their performance was interconnected with each other. This up-and-coming band could not stay for an interview due to their tight travel schedule: Oregon and Canada within a week! I believe that this band will gain popularity because of its unique approach at concerts; it is original and stimulates more than just the hearing sense of the audience.



# The Spectator Presents FebFest 2010: Mr. Hamilton Crowned,

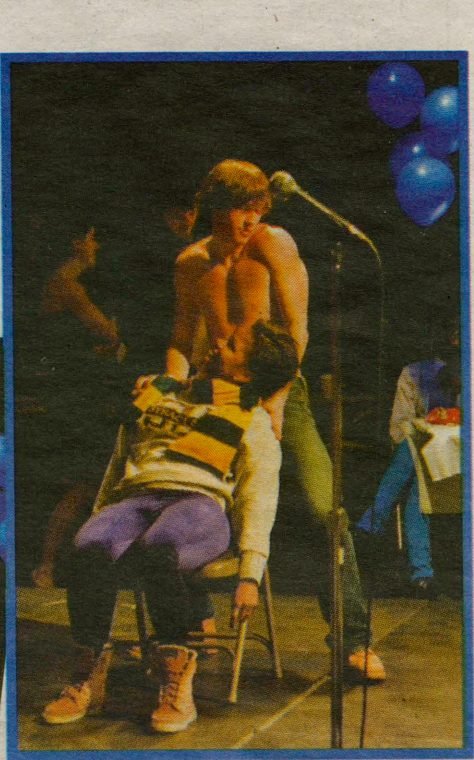
# It's Raining Men at 2nd Annual Mr. Hamilton Pageant

**by Keith MacArtney '13**
*Features Writer*

"Have you ever wondered if there was more to life than being really, really, ridiculously good looking?" The ten contestants of the second annual Mr. Hamilton male pageant each gave the Hill their answer to this question on Tuesday night. The event was so well attended that many were left standing along the walls of the Annex, unable to find a place to sit.

The ladies of the dance team fittingly set the tone for the night with a performance of The Weather Girls' It's Raining Men. The two emcees for the night, Mary Lancaster '12 and Andy Steele '10, introduced the "ten hottest, most eligible bachelors on campus." The contestants were nominated by various groups on campus to display a wide range of talents. Some of the groups represented by the pageant's participants were the men's basketball team, Alpha Delta Phi, The Buffers, German Club, Psi Upsilon, the EMTs, the ski team, the football team, Delta Phi, the cross-country team and Student Assembly.

It took guts for the guys to show off their guns during the swimsuit competition. Common trends were flippers and scuba gear; however, Simon Judd '13 creatively fashioned an empty Keystone Light box as his swimwear for the night. Charlie Warzel '10 left a different mark on the crowd, rubbing body oil over his bare chest.

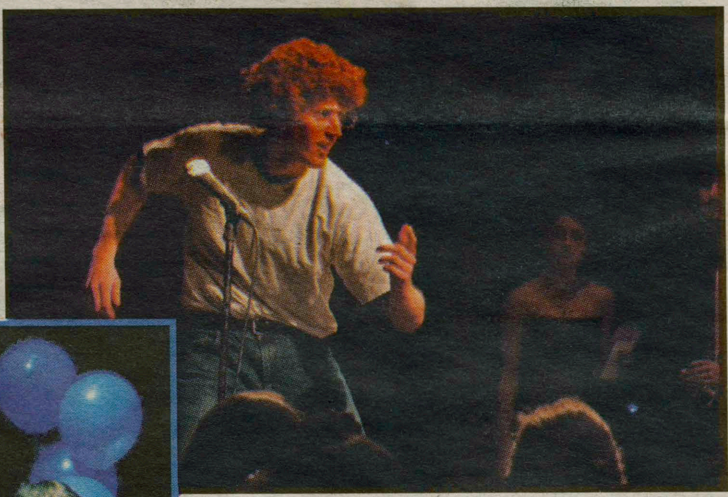


Each of the contestants' true colors shone during the talent portion of the evening. Some highlights included senior Tim Shaw's flawless portrayal of Napoleon Dynamite's Canned Heat dance and junior EMT Andrew Branting's valiant efforts to save the life of his swooning friend Kevin. Warzel, who sang a rendition of Marvin Gaye's "Sexual Healing," got the audience excited by bringing The Buffers on stage.

The crowd was disappointed by sophomore Nick Costantino's inability to ski indoors; however, he made up for it, leaving the audience awed by his readings of two heart- felt poems. A few of the contestants chose the musical route, but John Lawrence '10 added the element of sign language to his performance. Judd, the only first-year contestant, went crying to his "party room" in "Dirty D" after Randall Mason '11, one of the event's four judges, showed him up with his lap-dancing skills in the talent portion of the pageant.

The final event was the question and answer session, in which each of the contestants dressed to the nines for a formal wear competition. Todd Woodsworth '12 gained everyone's approval by going all out and wearing a full tuxedo; however, Ben Wind '12 was tough competition, as he swaggered down the runway with his stylish floral vest. The guys were forced to reveal intimate details of their lives: the most embarrassing moments of their lives, worst walks of shame, the contents of their fridges, most embarrassing songs on their iPods, what they like about their girlfriends, most meaningful Facebook groups and favorite party spaces on campus.

His sensitivity and highly-developed taste in romantic comedies served Ian Doran '11 of the German club well, as he took home the pink, fuzzy plastic crown and gained the much sought-after title of Mr. Hamilton. Woodworht was the runner-up. To conclude the evening's festivities, HEAT impressed the audience with their dance moves.

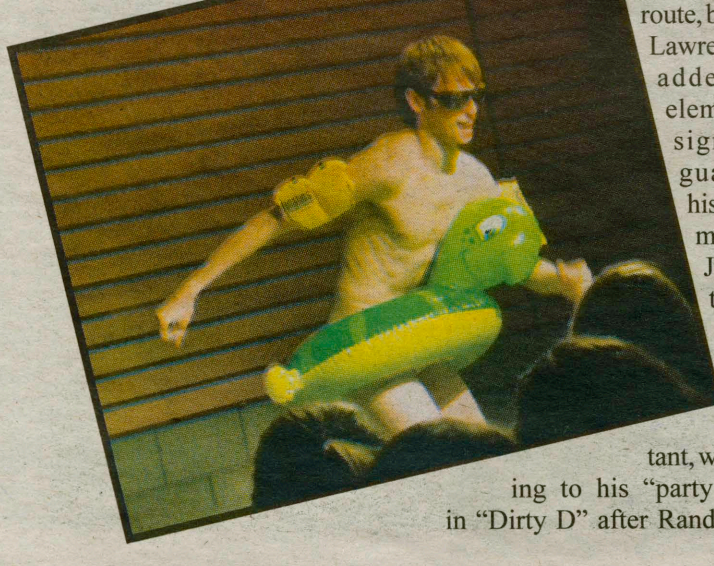


Ian Doran '11, pictured with other contestants and emcees, claims title of Mr. Hamilton.

While it was fun to watch the guys squirm on stage in their attempts to be named Hamilton's biggest stud, the true point of the event was to raise money for charity. As the brainchild of Hamilton's One Heart with Africa club last year, all proceeds from the event will be donated to the Ubuntu Education Fund, an NGO located in the township of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

According to the president of One Heart with Africa, Dan Hughes '12, "Ubuntu aims to develop quality education and healthy communities and currently reaches over 40,000 children to provide health-care, scholarships and counseling. In this particular township, there is a 24 percent HIV infection rate and 80 percent unemployment rate. Ubuntu enrolls 24,000 children in its health program as well as providing the resources necessary to keep children off of the streets and active." For more information on this vital cause, speak to a member of the One Heart with Africa club or visit www.ubuntufund.org. The campus was covered in One Heart with Africa's pink and blue Mr. Hamilton t-shirts for the past week as we anxiously anticipated the Hill's incredibly popular, yet relatively new, tradition. One Heart with Africa reported that they raised over $1,100 for Ubuntu.

The Social Traditions Committee extended their thanks to Caitlyn Williams '11 and "Al Ham" for making several appearances throughout the night. Altogether, the Mr. Hamilton pageant of 2010 was a major success for the Hamilton community.



ALL PHOTOS BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

Runner-up Todd Wentworth '12 displays his musical ability to an unwilling participant during the talent portion of the paegeant.

# ed, Vagina Monologues Impresses Once Again

**by Chelsea Wahl '13**
*Arts and Entertainment Writer*

*The Vagina Monologues* is a funny and sometimes poignant look at female sexuality. This yearly performance, sponsored by the Womyn's Center, is a part of a national movement known as V-Day, a global effort to stop violence against women and girls. Proceeds from the performance at Hamilton go to the Mohawk Valley YWCA and Utica Planned Parenthood. The performance was a wonderful opportunity for the Hamilton community to learn and to get involved in an important worldwide cause, relevant to both women and men on campus.

*The Vagina Monologues* is a play written by Eve Ensler, that was first performed off-Broadway. It is now performed throughout the world and has even been adapted for television by HBO. Ensler and others launched V-Day, which uses performances of *The Vagina Monologues* as part of an awareness and fundraising and campaign to prevent violence against women and girls. Students who attended this performance at Hamilton helped contribute to the millions of dollars that the V-Day campaign has raised worldwide.

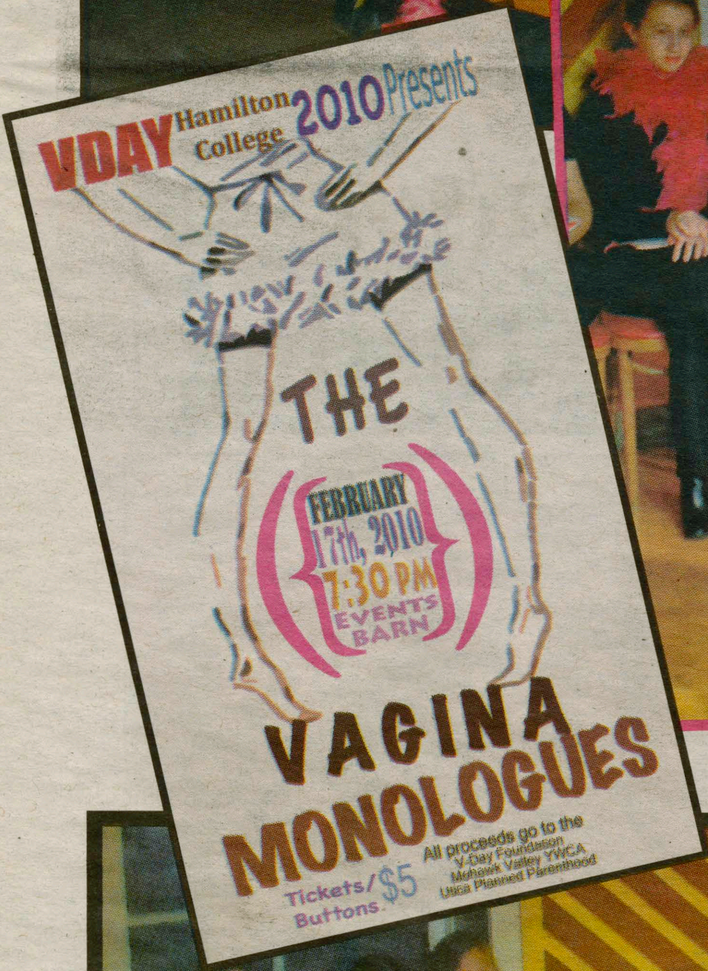
## Students Raise Awareness and Funds with Vagina Monologues

*The Vagina Monologues* is, as the title implies, broken up into various monologues, all relating to the female anatomy through the discussion of topics like sexual freedom, sexual oppression and positive body image. A recurring theme in the play is the vagina as an embodiment of female empowerment. A new monologue is added each year to keep knowledge of the issue of violence against women and girls current, and to remind audiences of the V-Day slogan: "Until the violence stops." For example, Ensler added a monologue in 2003 about the subjugation of women under Taliban rule.

The V-Day organization was founded in 1998, and Hamilton's Womyn's Center has been participating for over five years. The actresses are not paid professionals; instead they are women on-campus, including students, faculty and staff, who wish to participate in the cause.

V-Day aims to stop the violence that affects one in every three women globally. That goal is echoed by director and coordinator of *The Vagina Monologues* at Hamilton, Amy Tannenbaum '10, who explained, "It's a moment for us, as a campus, to reflect on how to end violence against women and promote more respect for women and their bodies. I hope that audience members are inspired to think about how they, too, have a part to play in the struggle to end violence against women."

The performance was an opportunity for Hamilton students to learn about an important global issue, and to contribute to its prevention. In Tannenbaum's words, "*The Vagina Monologues* is a celebration and a conversation but it's also a call to action, and I hope audience members see it as all three things." To learn more about the V-Day organization and to get involved in the fight against violence against women and girls, visit vday.org.



PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS KELLER SARMIENTO '13

# FebFest on the Hill: Chocolate and Beer Tastings

Students sample an assortment of available chocolate products.

ALL PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

Professor Ernest Williams lectures on the health benefits of chocolate.

## Professor Williams' Chocolate Tasting

by Meghan Woolley '13
*Features Writer*

The chocolate tasting at FebFest may not have been the healthiest event, but it was arguably the most delicious (sorry Broomball, but your kabobs didn't come close to 86 percent cocoa). Ernest Williams, a biology professor and Hamilton's resident chocolate connoisseur, introduced the event as "less of a tasting and more of a pig-out." Most students took this as an invitation, sampling chocolate-dipped macaroons, chocolate biscotti, chocolate mousse, chocolate cake and hot chocolate. Before they began to feel too guilty, however, Professor Williams informed participants about chocolate's many beneficial ingredients. The "chocolate liquor" formed from ground cocoa beans contains stimulants, neurotransmitters and antioxidants, all of which can help to elevate your mood, give you more energy and possibly reduce the risk of disease. It's debatable if the extra half-hour you spent at the gym balanced out the transfats that chocolate also contains. Williams successfully convinced many students that the positive effects of chocolate far outweigh any of its "unhealthy" aspects.

## Saranac Sponsors Beer Tasting

The Saranac Brewery, of Utica, has been sponsoring beer tastings during FebFest for many years.

In between Monday's chocolate tasting with Professor Ernest Williams and Wednesday's wine tasting with Professor Stephen Ellingson, students fit in a round of beer tasting, courtesy of Utica's own Saranac Brewery and sponsored by HALT. Students, ages 21 and over, gathered at the Little Pub Tuesday afternoon to sample both Saranac and Utica Club beer, both of which are brewed by the Matt Brewery. The beers tasted included Saranac's Adirondack Lager, Pale Ale, Irish Red Ale, Irish Stout and Utica Club's Pilsener Lager.

With another beer tasting on Thursday and Saturday's chili cookoff still to come in the FebFest lineup, there are plenty of more opportunities to participate For more information about the Matt Brewery and Saranac and Utica Club beers, check out their website at www.saranac.com.

SARANAC
THE SPIRIT OF THE ADIRONDACKS

Students (of legal drinking age) sample Utica Club at one of the beer tastings FebFest 2010.

There will also be a Magic Hat tasting Feb. 18th. at 4:00 p.m.

## FROM WHERE I SIT
### HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

by Ana María Díaz '10
*Features Contributor*

"Lista para una nueva aventura Anamita!" my mother would say as we piled into the car to head out into the Colombian countryside. We would go mountain biking and hiking through quaint villages surrounded by the towering Andes. Yet what I always found the most exciting were our occasional visits to pre-Columbian ruins. These remains sparked a childhood interest in ancient cultures and archaeology. From this childhood interest, archaeology has become an academic pursuit that led me to explore ancient Mesoamerica.

The summer after my junior year of high school, I had the opportunity to go on an archaeological dig in Orange County, Belize, for three months. The intense, 100-degree weather—with 90 percent humidity—made my dream job an arduous task. It was not easy, but I did enjoy the beautiful flora and fauna of the jungle and uncovering the walls of buried Mayan houses. After three months of hard work I was able to uncover one of the external walls of a Mayan house. I found potsherds (broken fragments of pottery) of all colors and sizes. That summer I went back home telling my parents, "My dream came true! I was able to uncover the remains of an ancient civilization."

After that summer, I decided that archaeology was definitely something I wanted to pursue as a career, and, at the same time, I was curious to explore other disciplines and approaches to ancient ruins. The summer after my senior year, I participated on an art history program in Copán, Honduras. During this program I learned in depth about the history of Copán, one of the largest ancient Mayan cities. It was a surreal experience. The ruins became my classroom. Every week we had class at a different temple to study its iconography and design. We even had the opportunity to go inside the tunnels of two temples to see hidden hieroglyphs that used to belong to the facade of an earlier structure. By the end of my studies in Copán, I realized that I wanted to pursue my interest in ancient civilizations by combining archaeology and art history.

Luckily, I found a way to continue my studies of the Maya civilization at Hamilton. It all began during my first year when I took an art history proseminar. The class showed many of the beautiful and unique ancient pieces of art from around the world. I was surprised that none of the pieces were Mesoamerican. I decided to stay after class and ask Professor McEnroe his thoughts on Mesoamerican art. After learning of my interest in Mayan art, Professor McEnroe informed me of the collection of Mesoamerican artifacts in storage at Hamilton. Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute donated most of this collection, which has been in storage in the basement of the Christian Johnson building for over five years. I took the opportunity to explore the collection and created an independent study that enabled me to combine archeology and art history. I catalogued the entire Mesoamerican collection and produced a "catalog essay" that describes the morphology, iconography and socio-historic context of each piece in the collection.

It is gratifying to see a childhood interest culminate in the exhibition now on display in Emerson Gallery. To present one of the College's most valuable collections to the Hamilton community, I put together this exhibition of ancient Mesoamerican artifacts titled: "Visions of Earth-Sky: Mesoamerica and the Cosmos." The exhibit displays pottery artifacts that represent ancient Mesoamerican cultures' visions of the universe and complement "The Cosmos" theme of "The Glass Galaxies of Josh Simpson" and "Music from Space: Samuel Pelman and Miranda Raimondi's Selected Nebulae" exhibits in the gallery. The pieces in "Visions of Earth-Sky" represent a token of the large and varied collection of breathtaking Mesoamerican artifacts that Hamilton owns. I encourage you to stop by and learn about civilizations in which the universe played a central role in religion, agriculture, time and the urbanization of society.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA MARIA DIAZ '10

**Ana María Díaz '10 combines art history and archaeology in the new exhibition "Visions of Earth-Sky."**

Now in Emerson Gallery: Visions of Earth-Sky

# An Interview with Professor Luers, former U.S. Ambassador

by Olivia B. Waxman '11
*Features Writer*

***Meet Hamilton's newest visiting professor, William Luers '51. This chemistry and mathematics major went on to become a diplomat for 31 years. Abroad, he was U.S. Ambassador to Czechoslovakia (1983-1986) and Venezuela (1978-1982) and held various positions in Italy, Germany, the Soviet Union and in the Department of State, where he was the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe (1977-1978) and for Inter-American Affairs (1975-1977). On the home front, he was President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for 14 years and President of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) for ten years. Now he is back on the Hill teaching "Talking with the Enemy," a seminar about U.S. efforts to negotiate with adversaries.***

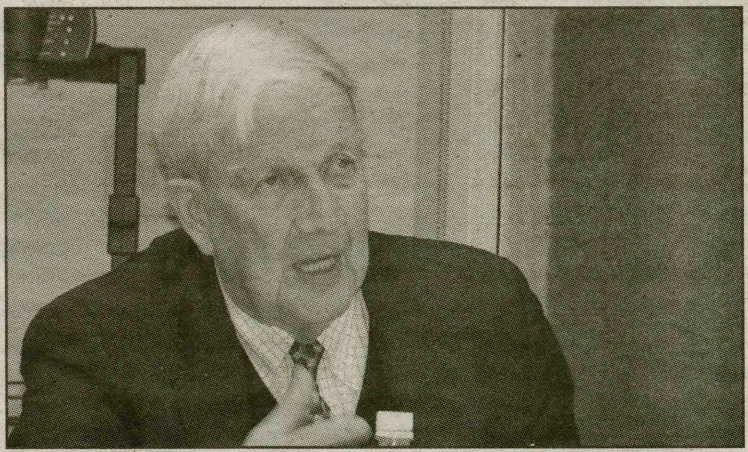
**So how does a degree in chemistry and mathematics prepare you for a career in diplomacy?**

[It] didn't. I never imagined that I would emerge from Hamilton as anything other than a chemical engineer, making a living in some little town in Illinois. Then everything changed. I began the move from math to philosophy in my last year at Hamilton. I took a couple of history courses from [Edgar B.] "Digger" Graves that changed me. I took French and did miserably.

But, under paternal pressure, I did go to graduate school in chemical engineering. Already prepared by Hamilton, I transferred within a semester to philosophy. I then spent five years in the Navy. I went to Japan during the Korean War and lived in Naples as a Shore Patrol Officer for two and a half years. In Italy, you discover art, food and love—and the Italian language. Those components, if you learn them in Italy, you learn them well. That was my immersion into a broader world.

**What was the biggest challenge you faced in your 31 years of foreign service?**

The biggest challenge in the Foreign Service was developing the capacity to empathize with the culture of another nation while still representing the interests of the U.S. In my case I had to seek a balance, for example, between learning about the Soviets and understanding why they did what they did and interpreting them knowledgeably to Washington policy makers. Your job is both to understand and interpret a foreign country while avoiding being so shaped by your understanding that you are not able to represent the interests of the United States. This is a chronic problem for American diplomats, and how you master that is the art of diplomacy.



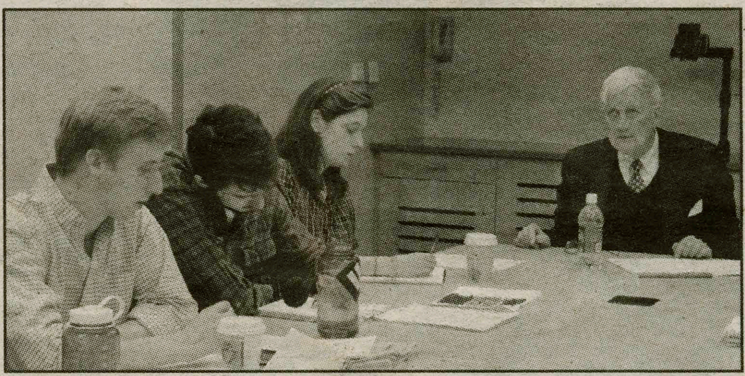
ALL PHOTOS BY NICOLAS KELLER SARMIENTO '13

**William Luers '51 is a visiting professor of government.**

**In a New York Times retrospective of your tenure as President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, you remark that you left the museum with a greater appreciation for ancient art: "It's fascinating to me how much we can learn from the juxtapositions of the way different civilizations have dealt with the same subjects." Do you apply that perspective to international relations? Or did your Foreign Service experience influence the way you think about art?**

After spending a life working in the world, empathizing and learning about other cultures, I would walk through the Metropolitan Museum with a greater appreciation and interest in the artists—from Egypt, the Middle East, or Asia or Europe or Africa—who have dealt with the challenges of interpreting human form, animals, emotions, heroes and so many classical subjects that artists have pursued for the past 5,000 years.

When I went to work at UNA-USA for ten years, it was an easy transition. The Met is the world of art, the world of images, and the UN is the world of voices and languages. I had developed this type of thinking about the world. Human beings try seriously to deal with their problems and their issues in a not dissimilar way. You find this in the UN in a political and verbal version and in the Met in a visual and creative version.



**Henry Johnson '10, Andy Steele '10 and Olivia Waxman '11 in Luer's class "Talking with the Enemy."**

**What, in your opinion, is the greatest foreign policy test for the Obama administration?**

The biggest challenge is to see whether the U.S. and other nations will find it possible to agree to joint actions today that can limit the irreparable damage to our globe from climate change within the next 40 to 50 years. Your generation and your children's generation will be faced with a different and more troubled world. It will be affected by a shortage of water, by a shortage of agricultural produce, by more stressed living conditions for a population twice the size it is today.

And then I guess on the foreign policy front, there is the challenge of establishing a coherent relationship with China for the long term and developing a strategy for dealing with Islamic-Western misunderstandings and, indeed, conflicts.

**Any tips for Hamilton students preparing for careers in foreign affairs?**

You have to learn a foreign language, and I bet it should be an Asian language. As the United States becomes more and more of a partner and not the manager of the world, we have to know about foreign cultures, we have to know more languages, and we have to be committed to an understanding of what globalization means for us. And I don't see that happening. I wish there were more young people who were committed to learning about other cultures and nations outside of the United States. Learning about other cultures also helps you understand your own country.

# Students Begin Applying for Summer Research

**by Rebecca Shields '13**
*Science & Technology Writer*

Now is the time of year when most students are thinking about their plans for the summer. Many students feel that they want to get off the Hill as soon as their finals are done; however, there are always a few who get to stay through the summer and conduct research with their favorite professors. It is an opportunity for students to learn about both the ideas and methods involved in cutting-edge science.

Even though it is technically summer break, there is no break in research. Faculty do most of their research during the summer months and usually use students to aid in their experiments and research. There are more than 100 projects that take place over the summer. In science research alone, more than 70 students will conduct research over the summer.

"Science research usually takes ten weeks to conduct," adds Professor Herm Lehman of the Biology Department. Lehman has conducted summer research since he was a junior in college. He tends to focus his research on the neurology of insects, especially in developing larvae. In past years, students have helped to show the developing notochord, a backbone-like structure, in fruitfly larvae and to document the different layers of brain tissue in a honeybee.

This coming summer, Lehman is looking to see how synapses, the connections between nerve cells, are formed during the larval stages of honeybees and fruitflies. "This research that I am conducting this year is mainly just for curiosity," Lehman says. "But who knows where further research could lead this experiment."

There is a slower and more tedious pace to scientific research over the summer compared to during the school year. "It definitely gets a little boring over the summer, of course! It's a lot of repetition: taking pictures of the same tissue using the same angle of the tissue all day long," Lehman says. "Sometimes during the eight weeks or so, all you get are a few pictures that are good enough to add to the report." The first few weeks usually consist of training to use special equipment and then the other weeks are then spent working and perfecting the use of the equipment to add to the study.

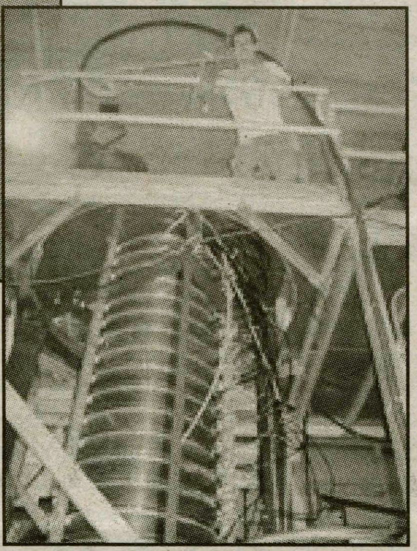
The studies are also very structured, but fitted with the student's interests for the study. A student can be a part of a study and then can do pieces of the experiment that interests them.

Even though it may not be the most exciting work every day during the summer, there is still amazing research conducted by students for their benefit. Two students that took part in summer research through the Chemistry Department were Taylor Adams '11 and Peter Garrett '11. They studied the factors that act on the interactions between galectin-1, a protein involved in the immune system and carbohydrate molecules to create a

*see* ***Research****, page 16*

ALL PHOTOS FROM WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

**Jen Santoro '11 and Gary Bedrosian '11 researched restoration of the Rome Sand Plains this past summer.**



**Research last summer included Elizabeth Pendrey's '10 assessment of bacterial diversity in Green Lake, NY and Will Bauder's '10 work at Indiana University (advised by a Hamilton Professor) on radioactive decay (right).**

# *Chemistry Society Works to Create Exhibit at Museum*

**by Ben Trachtman '12**
*Science and Technology Editor*

Monday marked the first meeting of the semester for the Hamilton College Chemistry Society, an organization devoted to learning about and teaching others about the field of chemistry. The club is a student affiliate of the American Chemistry Society and is involved in a number of events both on and off campus. It is open to anyone who is interested in the subject and wants to join.

Carlos Rico '10, one of the heads of the organization, describes the society as "a group of students passionate about chemistry and the chemical world around us." The society does not rely on a set of defined goals and objectives, but rather uses the unique motivations of its members to increase their own understanding of chemistry and help to educate others as well. In order to do so, they bring in speakers, put on demonstrations and contribute to the local community.

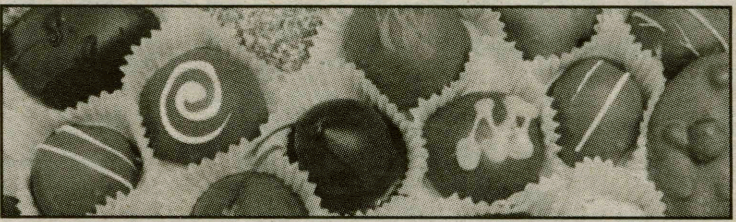
The society updates the campus about its activities and happenings in the chemistry department in its publication, *Catalyst*, which comes out twice each semester. The next issue, due out in two weeks, will include an update on the Silas D. Childs Professor of Chemistry Robin Kinnel, who is on sabbatical in San Diego this year. The issue is also set to feature an interview with professor of chemistry Bradley Wile. In addition to information from the chemistry department, each copy includes current science news as well as chemistry puzzles and jokes and a "Molecule of the Issue."

The group has big plans for this semester. They have

*see* ***Chemistry****, page 15*

PHOTO COURTESY OF CARLOS RICO '10

**Chemistry Society members (left to right) Phil Milner '10, Gail Corneau '10, Jack Trieu '11 and Julianne Tylko '10.**



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# Chocolate's Benefits Explained at Tasting

**by Ben Trachtman '12**
*Science and Technology Editor*

When people hear about chocolate's effect on the body, most immediately think of weight gain and obesity. However, pure chocolate, free from fatty and caloric milk and sugar, has been shown to have many positive effects on the body, such as heightened awareness and mood and reduced blood pressure. But it can also present problems that most people never think of, such as lead poisoning. These various benefits and dangers make one of humankind's most beloved foods also one of its most intriguing.

Last week, Christian A. Johnson Excellence in Teaching Professor of Biology Ernest Williams gave a talk about chocolate's various physiological effects during a tasting of several varieties of the food. Williams is an avid chocolate enthusiast and stays up to date on the current research involving the treat's many properties.

Chocolate acts as a stimulant, increasing the activity of the central nervous system. This can lead to improved mood or heightened focus and awareness. The chemical primarily responsible for this effect is theobromine, the same chemical that makes chocolate toxic for dogs and other animals. Theobromine is poisonous to humans as well, but we are able to metabolize it better and in larger quantities than other animals. Theobromine also affects one of the major nerves in the body, the vagus nerve, which is, among other functions, responsible for the cough reflex. The chemical suppresses this reflex better than codeine, the compound usually used as a cough suppressant.

In addition to affecting the nervous system, theobromine has beneficial effects on the circulatory system as well. It increases heart rate, which would ordinarily increase blood

*see* ***Chocolate****, page 16*

# Professor Research Profile: Mattheus, Geoscience

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**by Robin Mattheus**
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Geosciences*

*This is part of a series on what research our professors pursue outside of the classroom. It is intended to further the Hamilton Community's understanding of the scientific and academic community we have on campus.*

***What is your specialty in your field?***

As a coastal geologist, I specialize in understanding how processes of sediment erosion, transport and deposition vary spatially and temporally within the coastal zone.

***What research questions are you currently interested in?***

I am trying to answer the question of how well-connected coastal landscapes are to their estuaries [a body of water where inland fresh water meets salty sea water] from a sediment-transport perspective and to what degree coastal urbanization and land-use changes affect river-sediment loads.

***Why are you interested in these questions?***

Sediment connectivity between upland and bay environments is important to address as we are experiencing a global coastal population boom, which has potential to alter established sediment pathways and fluxes. Increasing river-sediment loads commonly presents a pollution problem and may lead to estuarine ecosystem degradation.

Furthermore, to better assess coastal vulnerability to future accelerated sea-level rise, we need to better understand and model how coastal landscapes change, because sea level is not inundating a passive topography.

***What methods are you using to answer these questions in your lab or in the field?***

I integrate information on watershed changes (land-use modifications, etc.) with precipitation records, lithologic data derived from sediment cores and field observations to help explain the timing and the causes for sediment transport. In collaboration with researchers at the University of North Carolina and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, I have been able to incorporate geochemical and ecological datasets and take a more interdisciplinary approach to the study of coastal sedimentation.

***What impact do you hope your work will have?***

My aim is to add a small piece to the puzzle of how coastal sediment-transport systems function.

***What have you found so far towards answering your questions?***

Preliminary work has shown that, despite their low gradients, small coastal-plain rivers are very efficient at moving sediment from their upland reaches to estuaries. Deforestation and increased sediment erosion in a small North Carolina watershed, for example, was felt immediately at the river terminus, where the system's delta expanded into the bay by almost half a mile in approximately 50 years in response to increased sediment flux. This efficiency in sediment transport is explained by low storage capacity along route and locally high gradient (with respect to large coastal-plain rivers). Despite their abundance, these small systems are understudied and generally ignored as significant sediment contributors to the coastal oceans given their size and the shallow terrains they drain.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROBIN MATTHEUS

**Professor Mattheus studies sediment erosion in the hopes of better understanding coastal vulnerability.**

## Do you want to write for the Science and Technology section?

Do you like biology? Computers? The environment? Anything in between? Do you want to get involved on campus?

We cover a range of topics every week, so you're sure to find something you want to write on. Whether you're interested in the newest journal articles or just enjoy science, writing for the Science and Technology section is for you.

Writing is essential in the sciences, whether you're trying to publish your findings or applying for funding. Writing for the section is a great way to hone your scientific writing skills.

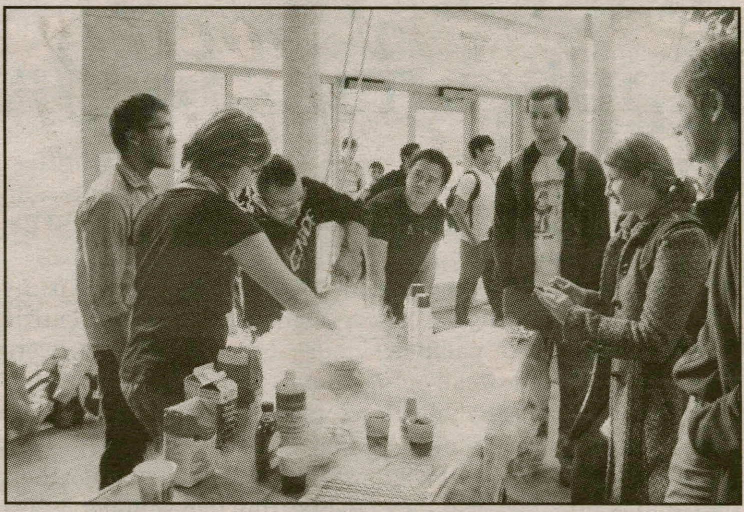
Contact btrachtm@hamilton.edu for more information.

# Chemistry Society Begins Meeting for the Semester

*from **Chemistry**, page 14*

been in contact with the Utica Children's Museum, which is severely lacking in exhibitions involving chemistry. The museum has invited them to provide a chemistry display in an available space. Their plan is to create a giant, interactive periodic table including examples of elements that children can hold and descriptions of each element on the table.

Rico cites his own background and interest in chemistry as his motivation for creating this display. "I grew up in a small city in Mexico that has a science museum. I used to go there many weekends and the demonstrations it had would always fascinate me," he said. "I hope that other kids will also develop a similar passion for science just as I did." Hopefully the display in Utica will have the same effect and will fill a void in science education in the museum. The society's next event will to be to go on a shopping trip for materials for the exhibition.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARLOS RICO '10

**Last semester, Chemistry Society made liquid nitrogen ice cream to celebrate National Chemistry Week.**

Another big move for the organization will be transferring their publication *Catalyst* to an online format. They plan on using this forum as a way to increase their readership as well as devote space to profiles of the members and a blog. One of the goals of the online format is for them to be able to offer an online tutoring service, through which they can publicly respond to chemistry questions sent in by students.

Following up on the success the group had with their liquid nitrogen ice cream demonstration last semester, which they estimate attracted about 200 students, they are once again planning on putting on a chemistry exhibition for the College. While they have not yet decided on what it will include, ideas for the demonstration have ranged from bottle rockets to hydrogen peroxide volcanoes. Warmer weather might see the creation of more liquid nitrogen ice cream due to its previous popularity. No matter what they decide, the campus benefits. Their past demonstrations have shown that the community certainly enjoys the society's events.

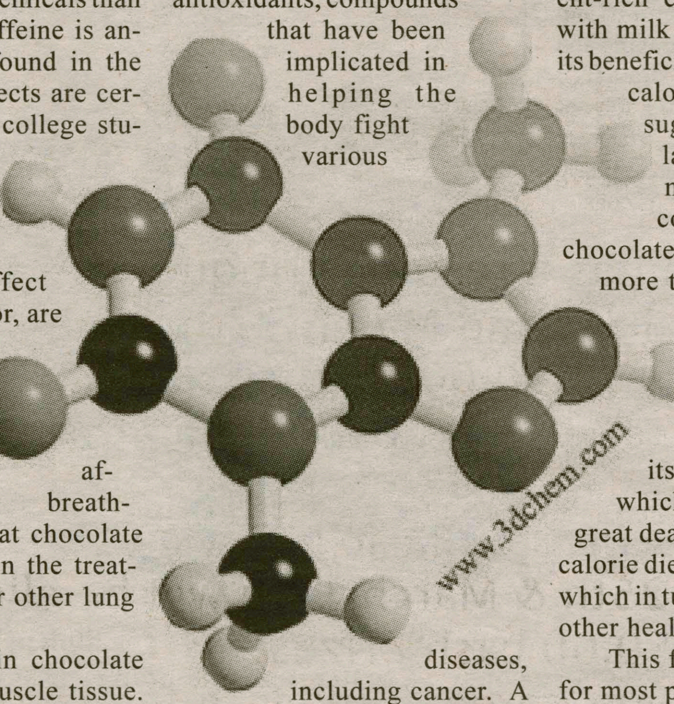
Students interested in joining the society can contact Julianne Tylko or Carlos Rico. Meetings are held every other Monday in the chemistry lounge of the Science Center at 4 p.m. and everyone is encouraged to attend.

# Febfest Features Chocolate Tasting, Discussion with Professor Williams on Benefits of Chocolate

*from Chocolate, page 14*

pressure, but the chemical also dilates the blood vessels to lower blood pressure. It also facilitates the drainage of excess fluid around the heart, one of the causes of heart failure.

Chocolate contains more mood-affecting chemicals than theobromine. Caffeine is another substance found in the candy, and its effects are certainly familiar to college students. The neurotransmitters serotonin and dopamine, both of which can affect mood and behavior, are also found in chocolate. There are also several compounds that affect the lungs and breathing, indicating that chocolate might be useful in the treatment of asthma or other lung diseases.




Compounds in chocolate can also affect muscle tissue. After a workout, you might want to consider drinking a glass of low-fat chocolate milk instead of a typical protein shake. Recent studies have shown chocolate milk to be as good as, if not better than, protein shakes at helping muscles to recover after exercise. Chocolate milk also contains several important minerals that the body loses during exercise.

Chocolate is also rich in antioxidants, compounds that have been implicated in helping the body fight various diseases, including cancer. A bar of dark chocolate contains significant amounts of these compounds that are rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream. These antioxidants are similar to those found in red wine and tea, making it one more food that can potentially improve health and life expectancy.

But chocolate is not without its risks. Milk chocolate substitutes some of the nutrient-rich chocolate derivative with milk and sugar, reducing its beneficial effects and adding calories with milk and sugar. White chocolate actually contains none of the essential compounds found in chocolate, making it nothing more than empty calories. This type of chocolate is sweeter and more palatable than dark chocolate due to its high sugar content, which also contributes a great deal of calories. A high calorie diet can lead to obesity, which in turn can cause several other health complications.

This fact is fairly obvious for most people, but not many know that chocolate can also contain significant amounts of lead. Recent studies have found relatively high levels of lead in chocolate around the world. To combat this trend in the United States, the Food and Drug Administration lowered the permissible level of lead in candy by one fifth. However, compliance with this standard is only voluntary.

MEDIA.PHOTOBUCKET.COM

**Theobromine (left), one of the key compounds found in chocolate, has a molecular structure nearly identical to caffeine.**

Researchers are unsure whether these levels of lead can be absorbed by and affect the body, but it is also unknown how much lead children can safely consume. Lead consumption can cause lead poisoning, a neurological disorder that can cause permanent mental deficits, including a lower IQ score.

This time of year brings chocolate to mind for many people, but if you want to be really romantic next year, give your lover dark chocolate to show them you care about their health (and weight). Chocolate is a fascinating group of powerful chemicals, not all of which are fully understood yet, and could lead the way in future pharmaceuticals. Given its broad range of neurological and cardiac benefits, it's hard to ignore this tasty medicine.

# Summer Research Applications Begin

*from Research, page 14*

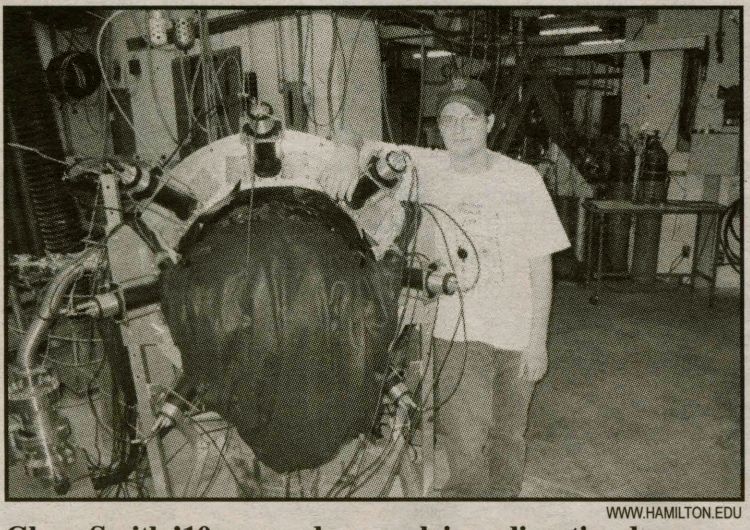
inhibitor to further the research.

However, student interest in the program seems to be declining. Despite having the option to do research on campus, many students are instead opting to apply for research positions in outside companies. "A lot of students are not staying on campus now because they are finding outside research firms and jobs over the summer and are not looking to doing research here," adds Professor Lehman.

This may be a good thing if you're looking to apply to be a summer researcher. It's a great opportunity for students to work with their professors and apply themselves to real experiments that will get published.

"I have had some of my students help write scientific journal entries and some were co-authors for the experiment. Some other departments have had students run their own studies and even publish their work from that summer," says Professor Lehman.

The summer research program within the science department is a well-run opportunity for students to work side by side with professors conducting real research that will get published and aid the scientific community.



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**Glenn Smith '10 pursued research in radioactive decay under advisory of Professor Gordon Jones this past summer.**

# *Off-Campus Science News This Week...*

***Google Enters the Fray of Social Networking***

Last week, Google announced the launch of its social networking service, Buzz. It was intended primarily to compete with Twitter, much like Google's Internet browser Chrome offered competition for other browsers such as Firefox and Safari. The corporation marketed Buzz's ability to automatically follow a user's top 40 contacts in Gmail as superior to Twitter's following system, which forces the user to select each person they want to follow by hand. The system evoked a public outcry when some users were unintentionally reconnected with people they did not want to reconnect with. Google rapidly changed the feature to automatically recommending people to follow instead of actually following them. Now, users have to select each person to follow manually, much like Twitter's system.

***Breakthrough in Vaccines Could Bring Help to Isolated Regions***

Researchers at Oxford University have found a way to preserve vaccines that does not require refrigeration. Currently, vaccines need to be kept cold to stay effective, which hurts their ability to be useful in areas such as Africa that have high temperatures and little access to refrigeration. By drying the contents of a vaccine on a filter laced with sugars, the vaccine can stay potent for several months, even at high temperatures. The thin film containing the vaccine can be mounted in a plastic container and attached to a syringe at one end and a needle at the other. When the syringe is filled with water and injected, the vaccine is dissolved and travels with the water into the body. This technique could prove to be revolutionary and help distribute vaccines to even the most remote areas of the world.

***Space Station's New Windows Gives Astronauts a View of Earth***

The International Space Station (ISS) got a new view of the Earth this week when astronauts took three space walks to remove the protective covers on the seven windows of a new module of the station. The windows, mounted in a dome shape, allow the residents of the station to have a full view of the planet, but also allow them to see how they are maneuvering the station's external robotic arm. Operation of the arm previously relied solely on views provided by cameras mounted on the station. NASA's shuttle program is due to retire this year, and as such only has four more scheduled missions to the ISS. Because the shuttles are the only reusable space vehicle ever created, they are essential for transporting equipment to the ISS and cycling out crew members. The shuttles' successor, the Orion spacecraft, had been in development, but funding for the program was cut in the most recent budget proposed by President Obama.

The Career Center

## Cash prize contest compliments of the Career Center!

Any freshman or sophomore who has a resume critique with a peer counselor between January 18th and March 17th will be eligible to win one of two $50.00 cash prizes!
Call the Career Center at x4346 to set up an appointment

Any junior or senior who records a "Basic Interview" on Optimal Interview between January 25th & March 17th will be eligible to win one of two $50.00 cash prizes!
Visit www.hamilton.edu/college/career/guides/interview/ for access to Optimal Interview

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**SHUTTER ISLAND**
*LEONARDO DICAPRIO*
●1:30-4:20-7:10▲10:00 *STADIUM SEATING* DTS R

**VALENTINE'S DAY** *#1 MOVIE!*
●1:20-4:00-6:50▲9:25 DTS PG-13

PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF
●11:30●2:00-4:30-7:00▲9:30 DTS PG

THE WOLFMAN ●12:40●3:00-5:20-7:40▲9:55 R

DEAR JOHN ●12:20●2:30-4:45-7:20▲9:35 PG-13

*9 ACADEMY AWARD NOMS - BEST PICTURE & DIRECTOR*
AVATAR *IN DIGITAL 3D & DOLBY DIGITAL*
●1:00-4:25-7:50 *STADIUM SEATING* PG-13

TOOTH FAIRY ●11:40●1:50-4:10-6:30▲8:50 PG

ALVIN&THE CHIPMUNKS 2 ●11:45●1:40●3:35 PG

FROM PARIS WITH LOVE 5:30-7:35▲9:40 R

EDGE OF DARKNESS *MEL GIBSON*
●11:50●2:20-4:55-7:30▲9:50 R

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ALL PHOTOS BY RYN STECK '12

**Timothy Belden '10 (on right) provides leadership and offensive prowess for a team in only its second year in the Upstate New York Club Hockey League.**

# Newly Founded Club Ice Hockey in Second Place

**By Rebecca Hazlett '13**
*Sports Writer*

In just it's first year playing a full season, the men's club hockey team has made their presence known in the Upstate New York Club Hockey League (UNYCHL), going 5-1-1 so far this season. Founded in 2006, the UNYCHL consists of teams from Alfred University, Le Moyne College, Cazenovia College, Oneonta College, Canton College and Hamilton College.

So far this season, the Continentals have beaten all but one of the teams at least once. Hamilton has made the teams in the UNYCHL wonder where these Continentals came from with their "clappers" (slap shots) and "cele's" (celebrations). Said forward Justin Torre '11, "Sometimes at the face-offs the other team tells me 'Your team is really good.', and all you can say back to them is "I know, I know."

Captained by Greg Schwedock '10, the team offers a chance at competition for those talented players who don't suit up for the varsity squad. Schwedock said, "We have a ton of talent on the team. There have been around seven guys who have played for varsity that play for us, and a lot of the guys tried out for the team as well." Schwedock also expressed gratitude to the administration for allowing the club team to compete at a higher level, saying, "even though we are not seriously coached and are not bound by serious commitments this is the highest level of hockey I have played in my life."

The team is coached by Visiting Assistant Geoscience Professor Robin Mattheus, who grew up playing hockey in Germany. Mattheus speaks very highly of his team: "We have a lot of talent on the team and the atmosphere is great; watching the guys play you get the sense that everyone is working hard and having a good time." It is clear the respect is mutual. Paul Englehardt '10 explained, "Coach has really brought the guys together, been a real catalyst for the team".

In addition to his coaching duties, Mattheus plays goalie in practice. Currently, the team only has one goalie, Dan Weiss '13, so the team would not be able to scrimmage if Mattheus did not suit up and join them. The team holds scrimmages to practice technique and keep in shape for their games. "We scrimmage to keep ourselves hungry out there," said Torre.

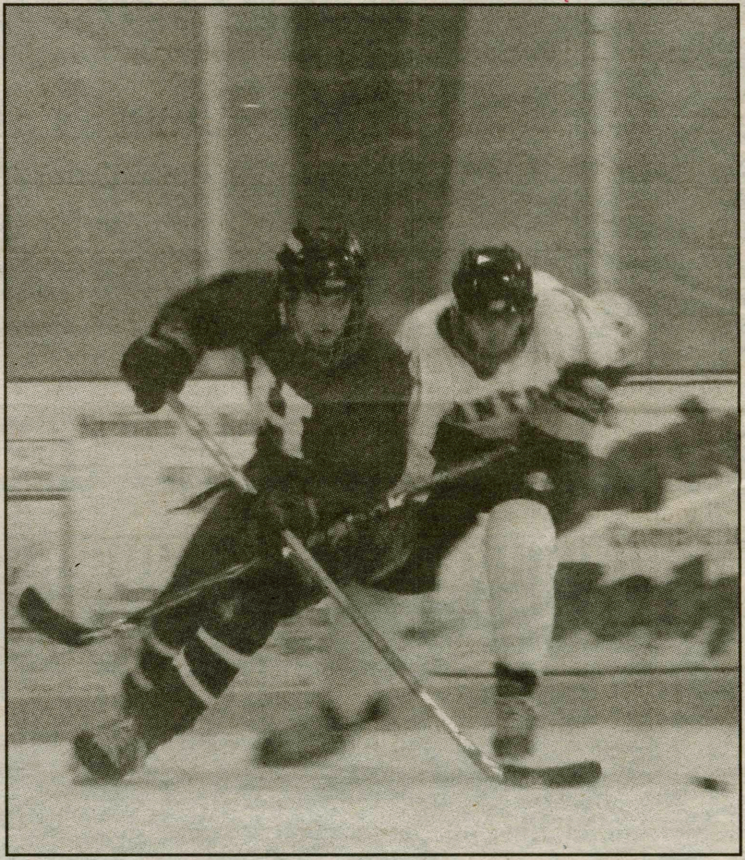
The biggest win for the Continentals this season came on the road against SUNY Canton. After tying the Kangaroos 1-1 in their first game of the season at Sage Rink, Hamilton traveled three hours north with only 12 skaters to a rink even colder than Sage. Hamilton led the game 3-2 going into the third period, but Canton tied it up shortly after the period began. After missing a penalty shot opportunity, Tim Belden '10 scored on a breakaway to take the lead. Canton pulled their goalie to try and tie up the game again with an extra skater, but the Continentals held on. With an assist from Schwedock, Torre buried the empty net goal to seal the 5-3 victory. After the game, Belden credited their new coach for the Continentals' victory, citing Mattheus' inspiring pregame speech as the difference between their strong victory and their early season tie.

According to Schwedock, Belden provided inspiration of his own with quite the epic post goal celebration or "cele" as it is fondly referred to by the team. Schwedock explained that after scoring the go-ahead goal against Canton, Belden "triumphantly acted out by sheathing his stick, still skating at a high speed and then continued to take a dive as he reached his teammates." The "celes" demonstrate the team's enthusiasm and commitment to not only winning, but also to winning big. As Pete Gustuvson '10 explained, "it's not worth winning if you can't win big."

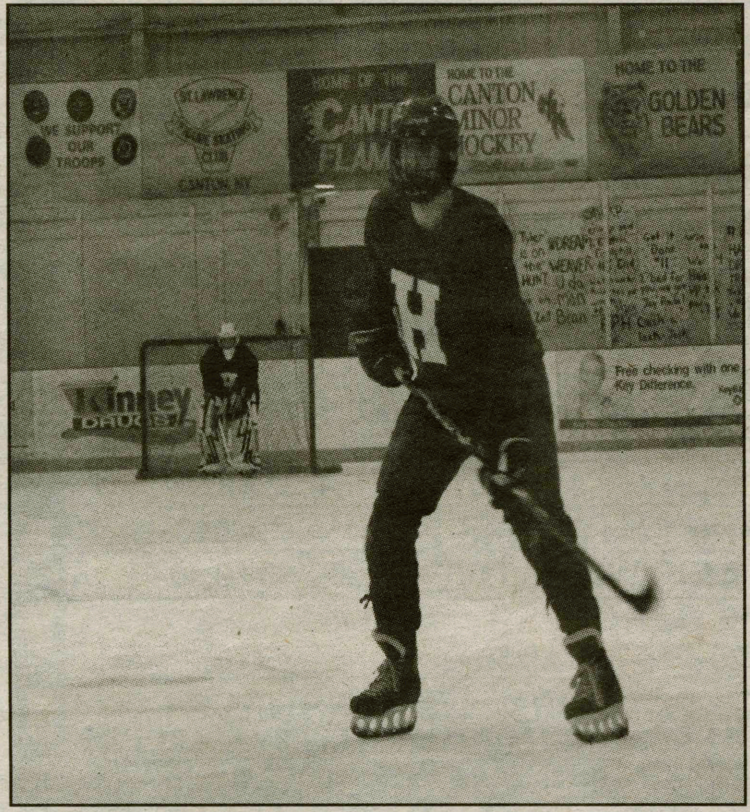
Hamilton is currently in second place in the UNYCHL with a big win on the road this past weekend at Alfred University. The team pulled off an astounding 11-0 shutout, even with only eight skaters able to make the four-hour trip. Mike "Gator" Gately '10 scored a whopping eight goals for the Continentals' road win. With this win, Hamilton secured the number two spot in the league and has clinched a playoff spot along with Le Moyne in first and Canton in third.

In addition to their strong performance in the UNYCHL, Hamilton has taken on Colgate twice this season. The Continentals started the season strong, defeating Colgate 7-3; unfortunately the Raiders came back in their second meeting, pulling out a close 7-6 victory. The Continentals were looking for revenge on home ice this past week; however, the Raiders canceled the match at the last minute.

The Hamilton community will have the chance to see if the team can "win big" this weekend. Hamilton has two big home games against Cazenovia and Le Moyne on Saturday Feb. 20 and Sunday Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. The score of the last match up against Cazenovia was 12-2 in favor of the Continentals. Sunday promises a tough match up against Le Moyne. When they last met Hamilton suffered a tough loss to the Dolphins, who are the two-year defending league champions. The game on Sunday will determine who wins the division title, and also who claims home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs. Come support the men's club ice hockey team this weekend as they battle at Sage Rink.



**Sophomore Dillion Friday goes after the puck in Hamilton's 5-3 road victory over SUNY Canton on Feb. 6.**




**Captain Gregory Schwedock '10 and goalie Dan Weiss '13 have led the club hockey team to a 5-1-1 record.**

# Sports, FebFest Style

By Greg Hyman '13
*Sports Writer*

Included in the long list of activities and events taking place during this year's FebFest are two rather unorthodox sporting events, dodgeball and "Snoccer" tournaments. Attempting to mix up the list of events, FebFest organizers included these two, hoping to inspire a wider range of Hamilton students to come out and enjoy the fun.

Event organizers want to end the program on a high note with a generally very popular game, dodgeball, organized by the HAVOC group on campus, and more specifically Betsy Bilharz '12. She got the idea from her high school days. There was an annual tournament in which people would come out every year to participate and show their team spirit. Even those who chose not to participate still enjoyed watching the tournaments unfold.

"A dodgeball tournament is a great way to unify the campus for a cause. Fraternities, sororities, clubs, sports teams and even just groups of friends can come together and play this game, regardless of skill level," said Bilharz.

The dodgeball tournaments held at Bilharz's high school demonstrated their fundraising potential, which she hopes will carry over to FebFest's dodgeball tournament which will be held Feb. 20, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Alumni Gym. Individuals pay three dollars to enter the tournament and compete in teams of five. The entirety of the proceeds will go towards the Haitian relief effort, as many students have expressed interest in helping the situation there.

Teams can register all week, so there is yet to be an exact number of teams participating. There will be somewhat of a twist in the tournament, as team costumes are strongly encouraged. At the culmination of the tournament, along with prizes for the winners, prizes will be given to the best-dressed team, a reason for everyone to show their team spirit.

"We'll see in the end who gets the glory," said Bilharz. "I personally am more than pumped to dodge, dip, dive, duck and dodge."

Taking place last Saturday, the annual FebFest "Snoccer" tournament was held on Love Field. As the name suggests, snoccer is a fusion of snow and soccer. There was no cost to enter the tournament, except for, as Andrew Conroy '10, an organizer of the event, pointed out, "the cost of potential hypothermia." Only two teams entered, which changed the event from a tournament to a winner-take-all match. The event was still a success, and FebFest organizers look forward to another snoccer event in next year's FebFest.

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PHOTO BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

Kimberly Goidell '13 scans the court for her next move.

# Hoops in 4th Place

*from W. Basketball page 20*

their fourth ranked slot, and look to maintain their winning record with two games to go. The Continentals hope to end with their seventh winning season in the past eight years. When it comes down to crunch time, the Continentals will need everyone on board, looking for a combination of the offensive prowess of the rookies and the trademark tough defense that Head Coach Sean Mackin's teams have become known for.

With four graduating seniors including Alex Sowinski '10, Cate Schafer '10, Hannah Adams '10 and August Keating '10, the Continentals will be losing valuable experienced players. While the end of the season is nearing, the team still has a chance to take a shot at the conference tournament, an excellent way to send out their seniors.

After a close win over Clarkson (63-60), the Continentals look to maintain their momentum through this weekend when they travel to Poughkeepsie and Troy, N.Y. to take on Vassar on Feb. 19 and Rensselaer on Feb. 20.

- CORRECTION -

*In last week's article on the first-years on the women's basketball team, we failed to mention Claire Hunsinger '13 who played in 15 games for the Continentals this season. We apologize for the omission.*

# Track in Stride

*from Track page 20*

tain Elizabeth Wahl '10 and rising star Muriel Schwinn '13 led the Continentals to a third place finish with each winning an individual event. Brooke Rayder '11, Schwinn and Wahl all made the All-Liberty League team for individual events.

Schwinn and Wahl took first and second place, respectively, in the 55-meter-dash with times of 7.58 and 7.64 seconds, both easily qualifying for the NYSCTC. Wahl also won the 200-meter-dash in a blistering 26.99 seconds, another state-qualifying time. Schwinn later also placed second and qualified for the NYSCTC Championship in the long jump with a distance of 5.10 meters. Rayder placed second in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 9.25 seconds.

Among the other members of the women's squad who helped take third place was Danica Wuelfing '10, who tied for third in the triple jump with a mark of 10.22 meters. Also, Emily Heckman '13 claimed fourth place in the 800-meter run, recording a time of 2:26.91. Heckman's time also qualified her for the NYSCTC championship. In the mile run, Maddy Gunter '11 placed fifth with a time of 5:30.16. Glenn Watkins '12 finished sixth in the 400-meter-dash in 1:03.18. Rachel Cackett '13 finished the 5000-meter-run in a well paced 19:47.85.

The first-year/senior double threat of Schwinn and Wahl joined up with Wuelfing and Alex Rimmer '13 to comprise the Continental relay team that finished first in the 4x200-meter-relay with a time of 1:50.41. Not only did the speedsters qualify for the ECAC championship in March, but they also finished three seconds ahead of the field.

When asked about the looming NYSCTC Championship, which is a mere week-and-a-half away, Captain Breazzano reflects, "States is definitely our biggest meet of the season. I'm confident that we can come out strong in our events. Everyone's working hard, so we expect our efforts to culminate into something great. A few of [us] may even move on to the ECAC championship. Regardless, big things should happen."

The Continentals next compete on Feb. 20 at Cornell's Denault Invitational. This will take place the following week NYSCTC at RIT.

# First-year Goalie Calvin Bartel Hurt

*from M. Ice Hockey page 20*

'10 and Joe Buicko '11, St. Anslem responded to each Hamilton goal with one of their own to keep the game out of reach.

The Continentals have since bounced back from this small speed bump with a 5-3 win over New England College on Feb. 13 at Sage Rink. Stearns got the start in net this time, and allowed three goals in the first two periods, but goals from Andrew Jelinek '13, Buicko and Ryan Guerin '11 kept the score tied heading into the second intermission. Hefferman then came off the bench and stopped all 14 third-period shots he saw, and Hamilton saw power-play goals from Harry Biggs '10 and Buicko to seal the win.

Most impressive was Hamilton's power play on the night; they scored three times out of eight on the man advantage, continuing to improve a power-play that had once been one of the worst in the NESCAC.

All in all, it seems the Continentals are still plagued by inconsistency that has been present all season, particularly on defense. Bartel's injury has certainly hurt them some, as he had been asserting himself as the team's true number one goalie.

PHOTO BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

Anthony Ruberto '13 has scored three goals for Hamilton.

Hefferman has been very good at times and not so good at others. A silver lining remains for the Continentals, though. They play their final two regular season games at home, first against UMass-Boston on Feb. 19, and then against Babson on Feb. 20. UMass-Boston, in particular, has been somewhat inconsistent as well – they followed up a Feb. 12 5-1 blowout at the hands of Middlebury, the second-ranked team in the NESCAC, with an impressive 4-2 victory over Williams the following day. Babson, as well, will have its hands full going into the final weekend. Prior to Sunday's game, they will have to face Amherst, who is tied with Williams for the third spot in the NESCAC rankings.

At this point, Hamilton, ranked sixth in the NESCAC with a 9-7-1 conference record, is out of the running for a home quarterfinal playoff game. All the NESCAC teams have two in-conference games remaining, all being played this weekend. It seems that they have the sixth spot locked up, as they trail fifth-ranked Trinity by 1.5 games and holding a one-game lead over Tufts. Hamilton's quarterfinal opponent is still in question. Assuming they end up as the sixth seed, their third-seeded opponent could be any one of five teams who are within two games of each other: Middlebury, Amherst, Williams or Trinity, all of which the Continentals have lost to previously this year.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume L Number 17

# SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 18, 2010

PHOTO BY KRISTEN MORGAN-DAVIE '12

**Joe Buicko '11 (#15), Ian Stearns '10 (#1), Andrew White '13 (#11) in defensive mode.**

# Hockey Playoff Seed at Stake

**by David Meisel '13**
*Sports Writer*

The men's ice hockey team has hit a speed bump. When we last checked in on the Continentals, they had put together an impressive win streak of three games that was part of an overall 5-0-1 run. They had not lost a game since Jan. 12 and continued their win streak on Feb. 5 at NESCAC opponent Colby College. However the streak ended with losses to Bowdoin and St. Anselm.

In a display of defensive dominance, the team put together a 2-1 victory over Colby. Following a goal by the Mules just eight minutes into the game, the Continental defense buckled down and shut Colby out for the remainder of the game, with Joe Houk '13 knotting things up with just over four minutes to play in the first period. Brandon Broad '12 gave Hamilton the game-winner with 8:08 left in the game on a feed from Anthony Ruberto '13. Broad also notched the assist on Houk's first-period goal.

Between the pipes, Calvin Bartel '13 stopped 11 of 12 first-period shots and Scott Hefferman '11 finished the game by stopping the last 18 Colby shots to lock up his fourth win of the season and Hamilton's 11th. However, the win came hard-earned on another level. Bartel had to be lifted after the end of the first period due to an upper body injury. He has since missed three games and as of press time is week-to-week. The Bartel/Hefferman platoon had been very successful up until the injury, but now, there is a major question mark in front of the net for the Continentals.

Following Bartel's injury, the Continentals lost two straight games, giving up 10 goals in the process. Hefferman gave up five goals in just over 50 minutes of play in a 6-1 drubbing on Feb. 6 at the hands of conference-rival Bowdoin. He was relieved by Ian Stearns '10, who gave up a goal on six shots in his first action of the 2009-10 season.

On Feb. 12, the Hamilton defense struggled again, this time losing a home contest to another NESCAC opponent, St. Anslem, by a score of 4-2. Hefferman played the whole game, doing a better job this time of keeping the Continentals in the game by holding the Hawks to just one goal by the third period, but allowed another goal 6:43 into the final period. Despite Hamilton's attempts to close the gap on goals from Chris Lorenc

*see **M. Ice Hockey** page 19*

# Tournament in Sight for Women's Hoops

**by Riley Smith '12**
*Sports Writer*

The Hamilton's women's basketball team currently balances right on the edge of their season goal to finish in the top four in the Liberty League standings. While Hamilton is ranked in fourth place with seven league wins and five league losses, the upcoming weekend against league foes Vassar and Rensselaer will ultimately determine their regular season ranking.

Hamilton has one win over Vassar College, who is in fifth place with four wins and seven losses. While the final league games could potentially shake up the standings, Hamilton is focused on controlling what they can through the upcoming weekend.

Hamilton's determination to maintain one of the top four positions in the league makes the upcoming games against Vassar and Rensselaer even more important. With a sweep this weekend, Hamilton could potentially clinch third place and overtake St. Lawrence, who currently leads Hamilton with eight wins and four losses.

While the upcoming weekend will be difficult, the team feels strongly that both Rensselaer and Vassar are within their grasp. St. Lawrence's weekend line up, which includes the number one ranked Skidmore Thoroughbreds – who dominate the league with 11 wins and one loss – may prove helpful to the Continentals .

Regardless of the game's outcome, Hamilton looks to win again against Vassar College who they defeated earlier this year in a 71-60 win. Hamilton further looks for an upset against Rensselaer who shut down Hamilton in mid-January in a 54-63 Continental defeat.

With two regular season games and the question of playoffs to consider, women's basketball team finds themselves exactly where they predicted they would be. Since only the top four teams make the playoff tournament, Hamilton is holding on tight to

*see **W. Basketball** page 19*

PHOTO BY ANDY RICHARDSON '10

**Lisa Olszewski '11 takes a jumper from the baseline.**

# Runners Chase Records

**by Jon Fung '12**
*Sports Writer*

This past weekend, the Hamilton men's and women's indoor track and field team traveled to St. Lawrence and many personal records were broken or narrowly missed. The team's success in the annual Liberty League Championships is a sign of great things to come as the season progresses.

The men finished fourth with strong performances and accompanying accolades. James Grebey '12, Graham Sadler '13 and Joshua Orndorff '11 all made the All-Liberty League Team. Orndorff led the way by placing first in the shot put with 13.81 meters and third in the weight throw with 13.03 meters. Sadler posted a season best and placed second in the high jump with a New York State Collegiate Track Conference Championship-qualifying height of 1.90 meters. Grebey finished second in the 800-meter-race and collected a new indoor track personal best and a NYSCTC Championship qualifying time of 1:58.26.

Further success was achieved in other events. In the triple jump, Miles Blackburn '13 placed fifth with a distance of 11.9 meters, a new personal record. Dan Keating '11 placed fourth in the 800 meter event with another new personal record of 1:59.98. In the longer distances, Scott Bickard '11 claimed fourth with a new personal record of 15:36.68. Newcomer Jimmy Alexis '13 took fourth in the pole vault with his NYSCTC Championship-qualifying height of 4.01 meters. In the men's 400-meter-relay, the team of Captain Mark Breazzano '10, Alexis, Grebey and Keating posted a new season-best of 3:35.27, a time that smashed their previous in season best by five seconds.

On the women's side, Cap

*see **Track** page 19*